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Hunger Strikes Continue; Further Details Reported

Shkoder Hunger Strikers State Demands

AU2905131491 Tirana ATA in English 0938 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 29 (ATA)—Alongside the hunger strike of the miners of the Valias coal mine in Tirana, on May 28 workers of the glass factory also went on a hunger strike.

At 1000 of May 28 a group of trade unionists, including members of the Initiating Commission of the Independent Trade Unions of Shkoder, began hunger strikes within the building of the Independent Trade Unions of the district. A statement of the participants of this strike stresses among other things that they will persistently continue the strike for the fulfillment of all the demands; otherwise, they demand the resignation of the government. The strike's commission stated that it does not accept meeting with government representatives or political parties.

On May 28 in the district of Elbasan more than 100 representatives of the ferrochrome and steel plants of the metallurgical combine, the cement factory, the bus lot, of the engines' workshop etc., went on a hunger strike.

Meanwhile, according to reports of May 28 it follows that workers in Durres city and miners of the Verdove mine of Pogradec District went on hunger strike.

Valias Strikers Vow To 'Struggle to the Death'

AU2905162591 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1600 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] We continue with a news item that has just arrived. The situation at the Valias mine is continuing to deteriorate. The strikers still persist in their demands today. There are no reports about the hunger strikers' state of health. A declaration issued by the striking Valias miners to the people of Tirana and the workers class stresses that the miners are determined to press their demands to the government to the end. As the declaration states, they have buried themselves to struggle to the death if all their demands are not met. The appeal addressed to the people of Tirana calls them martyrs of democracy, while the government will bear responsibility.

BSPSh Reports More Hunger Strikes

AU2905191691 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] A declaration by the Independent Albanian Trade Unions [BSPSh] states that, according to reports reaching the Central Strike Committee, the strike is continuing at the same intensity in all the districts where it began on 16 May. The situation is especially tense in districts and sectors whose working people have gone on hunger strike.

Besides the hunger strikes at the Valias mine, in Shkoder, and at the Tirana glassworks and the Elbasan railroad station, we have learned that the miners of Mborje-Drenove, who work in very difficult environmental conditions, the workers of the Korce Knitwear Combine, and the Durres railroad workers have also gone on hunger strike. A number of Berat workers have started hunger strikes at the headquarters of the BSPSh at Berat and the (?Oshllak) farm. Reports show that working people are preparing hunger strikes in many other towns.

At this time, the declaration concludes, we call on the government and the legislature to reflect on these events immediately and to fulfill the demands submitted by the BSPSh on behalf of the country's working people.

Strikers, Police Reportedly Clash in Tirana

AU2905113491 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 29 (AFP)—Fierce clashes erupted Wednesday in Tirana, the strike-bound Albanian capital between police and several thousand demonstrators clamouring for the resignation of the communist government, according to an Albanian journalist on the spot.

Police and troops fired several volleys of automatic fire into the air in a bid to disperse the crowd who had set fire to three army vehicles and a police water cannon, the journalist told AFP by phone.

The demonstration was called by independent trade unions who have managed to paralyse the country since May 16 with a general strike.

Protestors Call For Government's Resignation

AU2905142491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 29 May 91

[Timo Luto report]

[Text] Thousands of citizens arrived at Skenderbeg Square from different directions at 1000 this morning and gathered there, sitting in the square. They included miners from Valias and other mines of the districts, workers from enterprises, students, and schoolchildren. They assembled at the square regardless of the announcement by the Ministry of Public Order asking citizens to avoid illegal gatherings at this square.

To prevent this gathering, the forces of order were deployed at various points in the square. At first, the police did not intervene. The people gathered in the square began to shout slogans supporting the strikers and against the government and to sing various songs. At 1020, vehicles entered the square and an order was issued for the people who were sitting to disperse. Then, soldiers with shields and rubber truncheons descended from three vehicles and tried to disperse the people. There were clashes among them, but the mass of people was extremely large; it repulsed the forces of order,

throwing stones and other objects at them. Three police vehicles and a vehicle of the fire brigade were set on fire. Some of the forces of order retreated to the clock tower and some to the front of the Hotel Tirana. The latter showed little resistance and went away. The forces of order were subjected to a hail of stones thrown by demonstrators. The forces of order threw tear gas grenades and fired in the air to repulse the demonstrators. The number of demonstrators was very large and compelled the forces of order to retreat further and to position themselves in the square in front of the National Theater. The demonstrators broke windows and caused damage to the surrounding buildings. Officers of the forces of order went in front of the demonstrators to calm them and to avoid further confrontation. This intervention had an effect. The demonstrators departed and were joined by thousands of others in a demonstration on Martyrs of the Nation Boulevard, shouting slogans supporting the strikers and also demanding the government's resignation.

They stopped for a while in front of the Council of Ministers' building, repeating the same demands. They then moved on and gathered in front of the Art Gallery. At this time, there were also some deputies among them, who called for calm. The demonstrators then returned to the square where they remained for some time.

The situation at Skenderbeg Square is now quiet, but the square looks ugly. Thousands of shards of glass fill the streets. Smoke still billows from the skeletons of burned-out vehicles.

Thirty-Five Policemen Injured in Tirana Rally

AU2905191391 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 29 May 91

[Statement by the Ministry of Public Order issued in Tirana on 29 May]

[Text] Various, mainly young, people gathered at different points on Skenderbeg Square in Tirana at about 1000 on 29 May. At a certain moment, as if moved by an invisible hand, they burst out shouting various destabilizing slogans and calling for the overthrow of the government. A little later, other people joined the crowd, which then began to move toward the Palace of Culture.

The forces of order blocked the road and called for the crowd to disperse, because the rally was illegal. The crowd replied to the appeals of the forces of order with insults and slogans calling for the overthrow of the government. The crowd also responded by hurling stones, bricks, marble slabs, and other heavy objects. The crowd then destroyed the windows of a club and other facilities on the ground floor of the Palace of Culture. The windows of the Executive Committee and the Ministries of Transportation and Construction buildings were also broken. (?Part of the theater) and the club and buffet of the Ministry of Public Order were set on fire. Three IFA police vehicles and a car belonging to the District Executive Committee were also set on fire, as well as a fire engine that went to extinguish the flames.

Thirty-five members of the forces of order were wounded by stones, knives, and heavy objects; and five of them have been hospitalized. No other persons have appeared at the hospitals for treatment.
[Dated] Tirana, 29 May 1991.

Independent Radio-TV Union Holds 24-Hour Strike

AU2905150391 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Independent Trade Union of the Radio-Television has announced a 24-hour strike supporting the general strike that has involved various collectives in many of the country's districts. We will therefore not be able to keep our full program schedules.

'Thousands' Rally in Elbasan, Support Strikers

AU2905153291 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 29 May 91

[Telephone report by Sulejman Haxhihasani from Elbasan]

[Text] As part of the general strike, representatives of all the enterprises of Elbasan District have begun a hunger strike in the locomotive shed of the town's railroad station.

Today, thousands of people gathered in a rally of solidarity with the hunger strikers. As we learned from the Strike Committee's chairman, (?Azem Arifi), workers from the railroad division, the steel combine, the bus fleet, and the truck fleet are on hunger strike. He said, among other things, that we do not heed party or government ultimatums, but demand that all our entirely realistic demands be met without fail. We are determined to surrender even our lives for the fulfillment of every one of our social and economic demands. After 24 hours, the strikers' state of health does not seem serious, but they have rejected a medical team sent from the District Health Center.

After the rally, the crowd set off in the direction of the town center. After appeals by the Independent Trade Unions of the district and the intervention of the forces of order, it dispersed peacefully.

Student Rallies Support General Strike

AU2905193091 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] About 5,000 students and citizens of Tirana took part in a peaceful, illegal rally at 1700 this afternoon on Democracy Square. All the speakers at the rally expressed once again their solidarity with the general strike announced by the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions and their support for the miners and all

those who have embarked on hunger strikes in our country. They also demanded the unconditional release of three students detained by the police at yesterday's raily on Democracy Square. The rally ended with the slogans: "freedom, democracy"; "miners, miners"; etc. The rally's participants then dispersed peacefully.

Democratic Front Wants Support for Government

AU2905131291 Tirana ATA in English 0941 GMT 29 May 91

[Statement by the Presidency of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania; place and date not given]

[Text] Tirana, May 29 (ATA)—Our country is passing the most critical moments. The general strike of the workers, which is going on for some days now, has paralyzed almost all the country's life. It assumed a new escalation with the hunger strike by a number of workers in the Valias mine in Tirana. Land and livestock, agricultural and livestock production are at stake in many villages. The lack of tranquility and security is worrying our people increasingly.

Considering, in general, just the demands of the strikers, which lead to the improvement of the working and living conditions, and by asking that they be realised, the Presidency of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania supports those collectives, workers, and peasants that not interrupting work in the state enterprises and agricultural cooperatives continue the dialogue with the state administrations and respective organs for the solution of the economic demands they have. [sentence as received]

In the name of the lofty interests of the homeland and its progress, the civic tranquility and security, we appeal to the working class to stop the strikes and turn to work. Only through work and united with one another, with tranquility and understanding, by applying the laws, we shall carry Albania forward, shall consolidate the economy and elevate our welfare.

Let us leave the government to act more energetically with economic and legal measures to solve the numerous problems accumulated for years. Only in this way we may serve Albania and all the Albanians wherever they are, our national unity, the spirit of Balkan and European cooperation and understanding.

'Patriotic Association' Issues Appeal for Work

AU2905162691 Tirana ATA in English 1318 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 29 (ATA)—An appeal of "The Patriotic Association for the Martyrs of the Albanian Nation" stresses among others that all of us are living through days with embarrassment and major shakings. The hard times we are living demand a limpid glance forward. Unity, especially in difficult situations, the appeal stresses, is the only road to face and overcome the difficulties. We understand and feel the demands of the country's working people that are swept in the strike, but we think that these requests may be resolved while the work goes on at multiplied efforts. In this way that we shall go towards Europe with dignity.

On behalf of several hundreds of scholars and creators who investigate and study on the martyrs of the nation and of hundreds of other activists, intellectuals, young men and women, we appeal to resume work and with tolerance stand side by side each other. Let us unite our labour and toil of all forces, for beloved Albania, far from passions.

Hoxha Activists' Pro-Government Rally Reported

AU2905193191 Tirana ATA in English 1754 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 29 (ATA)—The Branch of "Enver Hoxha" Voluntary Activists Union for Tirana District organized a rally in the "Partizani" Palace of Sports in the capital in support of the Albanian people of Kosovo, the new government and its program. Participating in it were members of this Voluntary Union, young sympathizers of it, veterans, etc.

The meeting was opened by the member of the Initiating Commission of the Voluntary Activists, Elena Gjonndedaj. Then, the floor was taken by Hysni Milloshi, chairman of the "Enver Hoxha" Voluntary Activists Union of Albania, Jani Koci, Gjin Lleshi, Tatjana Kotobelli, Arta Celmeta from Peze, who voiced their support for the government and its program.

Assembly Suspended Over Hoxha Activists' Debate

AU2905145991 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 29 May 91

[Zamire Koleci report]

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its proceedings in a plenary session at about 0930 this morning. Presidency President Kastriot Islami said at the start of the session that we will proceed in a normal and logical way, on the basis of the work done by the People's Assembly's permanent commissions, to consider the draft decrees of the legislative groups, but the Council of Ministers has a proposal to start with a discussion of the situation resulting from the general strike. The Presidency then decided to discuss this situation.

Premier Fatos Nano took the floor and described the economic and social situation in Albania during the two weeks of the general strike. He focused particularly on the difficult state of affairs in which the economy has been hard hit by the total paralysis of production and on the measures the government has taken to carry out its program.

After the recess, the premier and members of the government answered many questions from deputies about the premier's picture of the economy. Economy Minister Leontiev Cuci; Agriculture Minister Nexhmedin Dumani; Drini Mezini, minister of mining and energy resources; and Justice Minister Fatmir Zaloshnja spoke. While the latter was replying to a written question about why the Ministry of Justice had not legalized on time the Association of Enver Hoxha Voluntary Activists, whose activities were reported on the television yesterday evening, the deputy Azem Hajdari asked for the floor. The president of the Presidency did not give him the floor, saying that questions must be submitted to the Presidency in writing. After Azem Hajdari and other Democratic Party deputies insisted on continuing with their questions and receiving answers to them, the president of the Presidency gave the floor to the deputy Avdi Baleta, who demanded to speak before Azem Hajdari because he had asked for the floor first.

A debate followed, which after a short time rose to a pitch that involved threats between the two legislative groups. A group of Albanian Workers Party deputies expressed anger at the technicians controlling the microphones in the hall because they had left the microphones of the deputies who were asking questions switched on.

Dear listeners, the debate exceeded the bounds of legislative etiquette and behavior and compelled the president of the Presidency to suspend the session.

The legislative groups then met separately, and the Presidency of the People's Assembly is now meeting with the leaders of the legislative groups. Meanwhile, the deputies are waiting for the next session to begin.

Ambassadorial Relations Reestablished With Britain

AU2905143091 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 29 May 91

[Joint Albanian-British communique; place and date not given]

[Text] The government of the Republic of Albania and the government of the United Kingdom, because of their common desire to develop relations between the two countries on the basis of equality, noninterference, and respect for mutual interests, have agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level starting on 29 May 1991.

Both sides have agreed that their respective delegations will meet on 7 June 1991 to discuss a full and conclusive solution of outstanding issues between the two countries.

Both sides have also agreed to develop and encourage cooperation and exchange between the two countries in economic, trading, cultural, technological, scientific, and other fields.

Assembly Adopts Constitution at First Reading

AU2905192291 Sofia BTA in English 1808 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (BTA)—Today the Bulgarian parliament passed the constitution on first reading.

The draft is to be voted through at second and third readings before it is finally adopted.

According to the decision parliament voted yesterday, the constitution is to be finally adopted on July 17. Before that, on July 6, there will be a referendum on the form of government: republic or monarchy.

After the adoption of the constitution parliament will vote its dissolution. The president will schedule the holding of new general and local elections for September. However, even after its dissolution parliament will continue functioning to pass the acts necessary for the implementation of the economic reform.

DPS Threatens Walkout Over Minorities Issue

AU2905174691 Sofia BTA in English 1631 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (BTA)—If after its second reading in parliament the draft of the new constitution does not reflect the demand of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS)—that the fundamental law of this country guarantees the rights of all minorities in Bulgaria—the 16 DPS MP's will walk out, DPS leader Ahmed Dogan, told the press today.

The DPS supports the radical MP's of Group 39 who left parliament. Today the independent MP Rumen Vodenicharov, former leader of the SDS Human Rights Society, accused the DPS in parliament of being an organization formed on ethnic grounds and declared himself for a single-nation state. His speech was applauded by the Socialist MP's, a fact which, according to Mr. Dogan, proves that the Socialist-dominated Bulgarian parliament cannot guarantee the democratic changes. "It would be best if the new constitution is adopted by a new parliament," the DPS leader said.

The DPS leaders believe that many of the goals the movement set itself upon its founding have already been fulfilled. But the DPS has a future, they say. Its constructive role will yet be enhanced because rights that have been suppressed for years cannot be easily restored, Mr. Dogan said.

The DPS will join the united opposition. But if there is even a single case of discrimination the DPS will walk out and take part in the new elections on a separate ticket. The movement received six percent of the votes in the June elections last year and it is now expecting to win six to eight percent, Mr. Dogan said.

The DPS leader said that the movement has its own party, the Liberal Congress Party (former Social Democratic Party-Non Marxist) led by Yanko Yankov. The party has 5,000 to 6,000 members. "But, if necessary, we could make it a major force in no time," Mr. Dogan said. According to him, only a small number of the Liberal Congress Party members are ethnic Turks.

Opposition Group Forms New Legislative Faction

AU2905180391 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1450 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Mr. Pavel Mazulov, one of the 39 members of the Grand National Assembly who walked out of the legislature, is in our studio and he will read an appeal adopted by the 39:

[Mazulov] Thank you. Appeal to the Citizens of Bulgaria:

We witnessed a behind-the-scenes political agreement between the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and some of the deputies elected with the blue ballot [the ballot of the Union of Democratic Forces]. Like in the good old times, the agreement was turned within seconds into a decision of the Grand National Assembly.

Two of the agreement's architects were so sure that it would be adopted, that 30 minutes before the Assembly voted on it they appeared on Bulgarian television and explained it. The agreement was worked out behind the backs of the Bulgarian people and behind the back of the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]. It ignores all previous decisions of the SDS National Conference and the SDS National Coordinating Council, as well as our legislative will.

On the basis of the agreement, legislative elections were postponed to an unspecified date. We think that immediate elections are the only political guarantee of continuing the change of the economic system that has begun. The decision opens the road to adopting a Constitution that will put an end to the hope of millions of people, namely, that a law will be adopted for sentencing the culprits of the third national catastrophe. The people's property, robbed by the party and state nomenklatura, was turned into untouchable property.

Through the referendum that was imposed, an attempt was made to divide the nations into republicans and monarchists, before the basic political issues have been decided—when the former Communist Party will relinquish power, and will there be democracy or perestroyka.

We declare that we dissociate from the deputies who remain in the legislature and who have been elected with the blue ballot. They unceremoniously neglected all past decisions of the SDS National conference and the SDS National Coordinating Council, as well as the will of the predominant part of the political parties and organizations within the SDS.

The support we received and continue to receive gives us the confidence that we express their will and hope; therefore, we unite into a legislative group—the Natural Movement of the

SDS. Our position is as follows: Elections must be conducted immediately. We will continue to refrain from participation in the legislative sessions.

Dertliev Denies Collaboration With BSP

AU2905123391 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1015 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Dr. Petur Dertliev, chairman of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party [BSDP], made the following statement at this morning's BSDP news briefing:

The arguments advertised so far for leaving the legislature have become unconvincing and unjustified following yesterday's decision. According to the BSDP chairman, the date for the self-dissolution of the legislature and the decision on the referendum are the most effective argument for avoiding speculations and anti-legislative actions.

Petur Dertliev expressed his confidence that the new constitution will be democratic. It will be neither communist, nor agrarian, nor social democratic, but just a constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Dertliev declared that he does not exclude the possibility of certain deputies deliberately trying to delay the legislature's work, but an effective application of the National Assembly's code of regulations would be likely to restrict such actions.

Petur Kornazhev rejected the accusation that the BSDP is allegedly not doing anything to restore the illegally acquired property and referred to the bill submitted by the Social Democrats on depriving parties and social organizations from their illegally acquired properties.

Mr. Kornazhev declared that he considers it possible and morally justified to vote for the constitution even if the deputies who left the plenary sessions do not wish to return.

Petur Dertliev denied the emerging rumors about possible joint actions between the BSDP with the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. He declared that this is an untruthful thesis deliberately spread by the BSP leaders in the purpose of increasing their popularity and prolonging the party's power.

Possible Deal With BSP on Property Reported

AU2905212191 Sofia BTA in English 2008 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (BTA)—Finance Minister Ivan Kostov was reported to have said that he was offered a deal by representatives of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. It concerned the real claim brought by him against the BSP for the 1949-1991 period which amounts to 2 billion and 700 million leva, interests included. This sum was taken by the former BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] from the state treasury and ought to be returned there. This evening the central news programme of the National Television cited the minister as saying that he had foreseen the possibility of being made such a proposal but that it could hardly meet the interests of the state.

The proposal mentioned transferring the building of the Supreme Council of the BSP in the capital to the state as well as the property of BSP companies.

Official representatives of the leadership of the Socialist Party refuted these allegations.

News Conference on Dimitrov's Visit to France

AU3005084491 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 23 May 91 p 1

[Petur Milanov report: "France Expects To See Bulgaria Changed"]

[Text] On 22 May, after his visit the previous week to France and the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Filip Dimitrov gave a short news conference. The journalists present were outnumbered by representatives from the diplomatic missions in Bulgaria. Obviously the Western diplomats have a greater interest in our bilateral relations than the Bulgarian mass media.

The delegation's members came to the conclusion that their Western partners show great interest in the democratic changes in Bulgaria and are sure that they can be put into practice and completed only by political forces not tainted by the past. Europe will support Bulgaria only when it eliminates the communist structures from its political system. The representatives of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] received assurances of help with the Bulgarian opposition preelection campaign from various political circles in France. The French also showed a special interest in the unity of democratic forces in Bulgaria.

Deputy Georgi Markov commented that the SDS delegation also had exceptionally useful contacts with Bulgarian emigre leaders in France including Mr. Jean Panitsa, Mr. Tsenko Barev, and others.

New Draft Version of USSR Treaty Denied

AU2905131891 Sofia BTA in English 1206 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (BTA)—Bulgaria has no other version of the draft of the new Bulgarian-Soviet Treaty, Mr. Lyubomir Bozhilov, head of the Department for Relations with the USSR at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told BTA. "At least the ministry hasn't got any," he explained.

According to him, no negotiations have been held to coordinate the draft with the Soviet side. The ministry's experts are now working on it.

The Bulgarian diplomat said that none of the political forces in Bulgaria had taken part in drafting the treaty. The preparation of such documents lies within the competence of the executive and the legislature and the ministry will comply with the operative Bulgarian legislation regulating the conclusion of international agreements. The political forces will be given the possibility of expressing their views and of exerting control through their representatives in parliament and in the government. There is nothing secret in the draft and all institutions concerned have been familiarized with it, Mr. Lyubomir Bozhilov pointed out.

He explained that the military clauses in the treaty are outside the ministry's prerogatives. They can be determined by the competent state authorities.

"There is nothing to worry about, this is perfectly normal in a democratic state provided its national security is unimpaired," he said commenting on the different opinions on the contents of the treaty and the need of concluding it that have appeared recently in the press.

He considers unjust the reproaches that the ministry has not given any details about this draft treaty. "The international practice requires some diplomatic discretion and preliminary drafts are not made public," he said.

Mutafchiev Denies Part in Treaty

AU2905192491 Sofia BTA in English 1805 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (BTA)—"I categorically reject the accusations leveled at me in my capacity as minister of defense, of an alleged involvement in a conspiracy or in the drafting of a secret treaty with the Soviet Union," Colonel General Yordan Mutafchiev told the BTA. "On Sunday I will make a statement on National Television to throw enough light on the matter because what is published and talked does not correspond to the truth but is an outright fabrication and lie," he said.

The minister of defense said he did not know whether that was done deliberately or otherwise but stressed there was no secret treaty, no secret clauses and not any memorandum which he and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Viktor Vulkov, have submitted for discussion at the Council of Ministers.

Asked whether under the draft treaty Bulgaria would be bound as before with the Soviet Union in the military field, General Mutafchiev said he could not guess what the clauses would be but, in his view, the treaty would satisfy both countries. This will not be a secret treaty because the public will be familiarized with it, and it will protect the interests of both Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

"I am sure that the treaty will not prejudice the sovereignty of either contracting party," General Mutafchiev said.

Hungarian Defense Minister Open Talks in Sofia

LD3005024591 Budapest MTI in English 1929 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 29 (MTI)—The Hungarian and Bulgarian ministers of defence opened talks in Sofia on Wednesday.

Hungarian Minister of Defence Lajos Fur arrived on a three-day official visit, at the head of a delegation, in response to an invitation from Colonel General Yordan Mutafchiev, Bulgarian minister of defence.

The ministers briefed one another on the changes that have taken place in Hungary and Bulgaria, and the security policy situation following the East European transformation. The Bulgarian side stressed military relations between countries of the region should be placed on new bases. They stressed that Bulgarian foreign policy devotes particular attention to fostering good-neighbourly relations with Balkan countries, and on developing relations with states in other regions of Europe.

Fur said that, in the Hungarian judgment, bilateral cooperation in military matters marks a significant step towards the strengthening of security, in the wake of the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty's military organization. He recalled that Hungary has already signed related agreements with Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and is now signing such an agreement with Bulgaria. Fur stressed that Hungary wishes to conclude genuinely good-neighbourly military agreements with the Soviet Union, whose last soldier will be leaving Hungary on June 29.

Kozloduy's Sixth Reactor Reactivated

AU2905161991 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1450 GMT 29 May 91

[Veselin Angelov reports]

[Text] Today the chain reaction of the 1,000 megawatt sixth reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Plant was reactivated. For the time being the reactor will function at the minimum capacity level. This will be the first stage of its full reactivation. Several physical experiments will be conducted within 10 days to check the protection systems. Afterward, the reactor's capacity will be gradually increased, until it is fully connected with the country's energy system.

Economic Repercussions From CEMA Collapse Felt

LD3005022691 Prague CTK in English 1450 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Prague May 29 (CTK)—Nine of the 12 per cent decline in industrial production and 13 of the 36 per cent inflation in Czechoslovakia since the beginning of 1991 can be attributed to the collapse of Comecon, the former communist trade bloc, Chairman Ivan Sujan of the Federal Statistical Office said today.

Four to five per cent of the inflation was "inherited" from the former communist regime and 16 per cent can be accounted for by the price liberalisation implemented by the current government at the beginning of the year, said Sujan, speaking at the Civic Democratic Party's (ODS) weekly briefing.

Despite the predictions of some leftist economists, Sujan said he does not expect any catastrophe this year, as prices are now stabilising, due in part to the government's reduction of import surcharges from 18 to 15 per cent on May 16.

"To stop economic reform would lead us to the same kind of situation that now exists in the Soviet Union, Romania, Bulgaria or Cuba," Sujan said.

Havel Returns From Visit to Scandinavia

LD2905131191 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] President Vaclav Havel returned to Prague today from a nine-day tour of northern Europe. He visited Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark in turn. In all countries he had talks both about political cooperation and, above all, about economic aid from these countries for Czechoslovak economic reform.

At Prague airport Vaclav Havel handed over the sum which accompanied the Sonning Prize to the director of the Charter 77 foundation, Frantisek Janouch. The sum of 500,000 Danish crowns is a contribution to the collection for a (?Lexel Gamma knife) intended for surgical operations at the Prague Motol hospital in Homolka.

Newspapers Charge Calfa With StB Links

AU2905142991

[Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 24 May on page 2 publishes a 600-word statement by Ladislav Fronek, chief editor of SPIGL, a Prague tabloid, entitled "Where Has the Truth Gone." In the statement Fronek clarifies, at PRAVDA's request, remarks which he made in a Czechoslovak Television documentary broadcast on 21 May concerning Prime Minister Calfa's links with the former State Security Corps [StB]. Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 25 May on page 13 carries a 300-word unattributed report on CSFR Interior Minister Jan Langos' news conference held after the 23 May CSFR Government session. According to the NARODNA OBRODA account of the news conference, Langos was confronted, among other things, with the SPIGL chief editor's claims about Prime Minister Calfa.

In his Bratislava PRAVDA statement, Fronek maintains that, during the screening for collaboration with the StB which preceded Marian Calfa's appointment as Federal prime minister, "a register of M. Calfa's files had been found," which caused a "big uproar." According to Fronek, "the people who discovered the register" reported their find to the then Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy, which then contacted unspecified "people from the Civic Forum Coordinating Center." Presidential adviser Jiri Krizan and the president himself were informed, but the Calfa dossier itself "disappeared."

Fronek does not cite any evidence for his claim; he merely mentions that, prior to November 1989, Marian Calfa had as his neighbor an unspecified "StB member" with whom he "maintained contact." Fronek calls it "interesting" that this StB member passed the post-November 1989 screenings and has retained his previous job.

Fronek goes on to say that, when SPIGL first published allegations about Calfa's StB links, "M. Calfa's reaction was to have our entire editorial staff screened" and "to have the editorial office's telephones tapped." When SPIGL requested the General Prosecutor's Office to provide an explanation for the tapping of its telephones, it received only a "vague answer."

Fronek concludes his statement by saying: "Why did I mention the prime minister? Because every day we receive hundreds of letters from citizens who wonder how this man can sit in the government under every regime and how it is possible that, besides being prime minister, he is also a deputy to the Federal Assembly. It is only natural that people take an interest in his register today. Someone has destroyed this register, however, in the same way as the registers of many other people who are on top today have been destroyed. These people appear to be clean but in reality they are not clean. The question is who will cleanse this society when the majority of those who do the 'cleansing' are discredited...."

The NARODNA OBRODA report on Interior Minister Langos' news conference includes the following passage: "Confronted with the claim of the lunchtime paper SPIGL about the 'mysterious disappearance of M. Calfa's dossier,' Minister Langos said that he does not know anything about the existence of such a dossier. He added that his Ministry has been asked by [Deputy Prime Minister] P. Rychetsky to work out the government draft of a law, under which 'StB collaborators and some StB staff members, as well as some CPCZ [Communist Party of Czechoslovakia] functionaries' would be banned from holding certain posts. In his opinion, this law should clearly specify the posts and activities to which the ban would apply."

Rychetsky Outlines Government's New Legal Codes

AU2905095391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 24 May 91 pp 1,2

["(KLI)" signed report: "On the Merry-Go-Round of Laws"]

[Text] "This involves the largest legislative act undertaken by the Federal Government since it came into office," said Federal Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky when evaluating the government's regular session yesterday.

At a briefing with journalists, he said that the government discussed a draft commercial code, a draft amendment to the civil code, procedures for the civil court, a passage in the Constitution concerning courts, new draft laws on courts and judges, and a law on bankruptcy and compensatory procedures (the law on bankruptcy). As he said, the commercial code is the first legal norm of this kind in our country's history. It will completely and comprehensively adjust all property, commercial, and entrepreneurial relations, including the status of legal entities. The draft of the code has 774 paragraphs that proceed from the same norms as similar codes on a UN and EC scale. If it is adopted, it will be possible to revoke 78 current laws or legal norms. It foresees complete and equal status for all entities, including foreign ones.

For example, it will incorporate new specifications for legal persons' (including foundations and associations) legal subjectivity. It reestablishes the extent of responsibility for injury, for which lost profit will also be taken into consideration. Old and proven institutions—such as the right of pledge [zastavni pravo] and the right of retention [zadrzovaci pravo]—are introduced to guarantee obligations.

In a passage devoted to the other draft laws under discussion, P. Rychetsky stated that economic arbitration will be abolished and that all business disputes will, in the future, belong to the courts. The last of the draft laws discussed yesterday—the law on bankruptcy—will enable creditors to institute bankruptcy proceedings against any economic entity. Insolvency and indebtedness are considered reasons for bankruptcy proceedings. In view of the fact that in the current situation a large number of enterprises could be threatened by bankruptcy, the government was forced—on a recommendation from the Economic Council—to incorporate a temporary stipulation into the law that precludes the first of the aforementioned reasons for a period of one year.

The government's point of view regarding the statement made by the Federal Assembly commission investigating the events of 17 November 1989—its statement on positively screened government members—was awaited with the greatest interest. Pavel Rychetsky—who was later supplemented by Federal Interior Minister Jan Langos—said that the CSFR Government will issue a definitive statement in the Federal Assembly today. Its statement will be made before the government's brief morning session in the Federal Assembly building.

Armed Forces Redeployment Continues

LD2905212491 Prague CTK in English 1301 GMT 29 May 91

[Vladimira Hostova report]

[Text] Prague May 29 (CTK)—The redeployment of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces which started at the beginning of May continues in tune with the prepared timetable and is part of the Army's reorganisation within Czechoslovakia's new military doctrine. The reorganisation plan anticipates the establishment of three regional commands for seven corps evenly deployed throughout the whole of Czechoslovakia. This will lead to a considerable reduction of armed forces in the Czech republic and their increase in Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia.

For the first time since the end of World War II, the redeployment will be based on the military doctrine of a sovereign state, the strategic concept of defense sufficiency and Czechoslovakia's defense capability strengthened by the defense capability of Slovakia.

The process of reorganisation and redeployment of troops is to be completed in 1992, when the main kinds of weapons and military technology are to be reduced to the level fixed by the conventional armed forces treaty. The reorganisation costs are estimated at 2,800 million crowns.

Army No Longer Finances Civic Defense Training

AU3005093991 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 23 May 91 p 2

[Text] Since the amendment to the law on civic defense training was rejected, a legal framework no longer exists for the Army to finance such activity, representatives of the Czechoslovak Army said at yesterday's briefing. Should training of draftees be necessary, the Army will hire the services of some organization. However, at this time, no law regulates the defense training of the population. Rudolf Silhan, the new chief of the Ministry of Defense Inspection, introduced himself to those present.

Czech Prime Minister Interviewed on Federation

LD2905090291 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Interview with Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart by unidentified reporter, place and date not given: "A Meeting With the Prime Minister of the Czech Government"—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, last week the Czech National Council asked you to report on policies and measures in case the Federation disintegrates. There are some that claim that [word indistinct] catastrophic scenario is in fact a form of pressure from the Slovak side. The Slovaks who support the Federation consider something like that as treasonous. So, again, we have pressures from both sides.

[Pithart] Well, first of all, a few reservations. I would not call it a catastrophic scenario. This is what the news media call it to make it look better and more interesting. It is not a catastrophic scenario according to which someone would truly want to appear on some platform. I would say that what is involved are policies and measures which could best be compared to fire drills, let us say. These are available to every house, every enterprise, although nobody longs for a fire.

The current Slovak political representation stands on the territory of the Federation. But in the Slovak news media one can hear so many voices opposing the Federation that the Czech side simply cannot turn a deaf ear. The Czech government, at the same time, unequivocally favors a functioning Federation. But if in these circumstances it were not, at least theoretically, prepared for any unfavorable outcome, one could view this as culpable negligence and, I would say, justifiably.

The second reservation concerns publication. The set of policies and measures I am talking about has not been published. It was an internal government affair. The government has it ready somewhere at the back of a drawer.

The Czech National Council, as the highest legislative organ of the Czech republic, has asked for information about this. The overwhelming majority has decided upon it. Naturally, the Czech National Council has the right to it and the Czech government must feel obliged by the wish of the Czech National Council. That is why it briefed the Czech National Council and it acknowledged this. This happened behind closed doors. That is all.

As for Slovak responses, I would say they are varied. The Slovak prime minister considers the policy of the Czech government and of the Czech National Council as completely legitimate, understandable, and justified. I am of the same opinion. We simply must acknowledge the fact that the joint Federation does not exist as a matter of course, as perhaps some people seemed to have thought until recently. If the political forces which are opposed to the Federation realize that the Czech government is prepared also for an unfavorable outcome, it is only for the good. It will at least abandon litigation, blackmail, and threats. The Slovaks who support the Federation can easily rely on the Czech government. It also favors the Federation.

[Reporter] Allow me to turn to a different geographical area. Last week you took part in a conference on the Euroregion, which will include large parts of Saxony, Lower Saxony, and northern Bohemia. What is the purpose of these common regions?

[Pithart] Their purpose is to put together broken Europe. The regions that have already appeared and are functioning are some kind of islands of the future Europe, the Europe in which borders will not play any or only a very negligible role. Putting together broken Europe will be easier for a Europe of regions than for a Europe of nations and states. The Europe of nations and states waged wars for a long time, wars which, in the end, turned into world wars. I can say that there are good experiences everywhere with regions. They started emerging years ago, some time in the early seventies, on both sides of, I would say, painful borders; that is, the borders dividing the nations which did not have friendly relations in the past. For example, on the German-Netherlands, German-French borders, and so on. It has turned out that in this regional framework one can achieve mutual friendship faster, that the friendship is more intimate than if the foreign ministers try for it. At the same time, what is involved is not the introduction of some kind of uniformity. Each of the participating parties preserves its specific character; it is as if two or three people get acquainted and agree that they will solve some problems together. It means a complete opening of borders for the movement of citizens, services, and capital. At the same time, the need for this kind of a broader contact comes from below. What is being worked on now is setting up another Euroregion in the Cheb area. It will be called Regio Egrensis. I think that this Saturday an information center of this region will open there. All this is taking place with the participation of the representations of villages and towns. [passage omitted]

Last Saturday, our citizens in the towns in the Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, and Tachov areas elected their 60-member regional legislature. The same thing will happen soon in the neighboring parts of Bavaria and Saxony. These legislatures will then create a joint body, a regional council, and it will solve joint problems. Interregional policy is simply built on the fact that a significant historical task, which is the reunification of Europe, is also a matter for the citizens themselves. I believe that this will be as successful in our country as in Western Europe.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, the outlook for restitution and privatization is creating concerns among tenants in tenement houses. There are cases when the behavior of the former owners or of their heirs reinforces such concerns. What can the users of the so-called state apartments expect in the future?

[Pithart] First of all I would like to calm them. Tenants need not worry now or in the future that they will find themselves without a roof over their heads. The protection of users is safeguarded in the civic code which stipulates conditions for vacating an apartment. It can happen only in certain circumstances and, naturally, only after a replacement has been allocated. This has

been valid so far and it will continue to be valid, although there will be partial changes. We must certainly be prepared for European standards of the rights of house and apartment owners to be valid in our country in future. [passage omitted]

Strasky To Replace Vlasak in Czech Government

LD2905224491 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] (Pavel Andres), head of the press office of the Czech government, informed journalists today about changes in the government. Deputy Czech Prime Minister Frantisek Vlasak, who is leaving for health reasons, will be replaced by Jan Strasky, who has so far been a deputy general director of the Commercial Bank.

Vladimir Zelezny has been appointed spokesman of the Czech Government. [passage omitted]

Karel Dyba, Czech minister for economic policy and development, spoke about the draft principles of the state housing policy. He said it is envisaged that the maximum rent increase for state-owned apartments will be 180 percent. It will be announced six months beforehand. He also said that the Slovak government proposes to increase rent by 100 percent.

Democratic Slovakia Group Forms Shadow Cabinet

LD3005022391 Prague CTK in English 1540 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bratislava May 29 (CTK)—Slovak ex-Premier Vladimir Meciar told CTK today that his party is forming a shadow cabinet, an institution until now unknown in Slovakia.

Meciar said he remains chairman of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and has no seat in the shadow cabinet, which will be composed solely of HZDS members. Such teams, he added, have to be set up well in advance so that "people are not sought for offices only after elections."

Meciar was recalled from the post of Slovak premier last month, after his faction split from the Public Against Violence (VPN) movement, a member of the ruling coalition, and formed the HZDS, which announced its intention to be a "constructive opposition". An HZDS congress on June 22 is to debate the Movement's structure and statutes.

In a statement to journalists today Meciar said Slovak government coalition and opposition parties alike are concerned about future political developments in the republic, which makes up one-third of Czechoslovakia.

Political Parties, Movements Lose Popularity

AU3005093791 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 28 May 91 p 2

[Pavol Fric report: "The Popularity of Political Parties and Movements Declines"]

[Text] According to the results of a representative survey of public opinion conducted by the Comenius University Institute for Social Analysis in mid-May on a sample of 983 citizens of the Slovak republic, the most popular political force in Slovakia today is the HZDS [Movement for Democratic Slovakia], supported by 20 percent of those polled. It is followed by the Party of Democratic Left (7.9 percent), Christian Democratic Movement (6.3 percent), Slovak National Party (5.3 percent), Democratic Party (2.6 percent), Public Against Violence movement (2.4 percent), Coexistence (2.1 percent), and Green Party (1.2 percent). In comparison with March results, one can see a definite trend of decline in popularity of all the major political parties and movements. The most surprising fact was that this decline hit the HZDS; since its rocket-speed start in March, it has recorded an 8 percent reduction in its support.

On the other hand, the number of those who cannot decide for whom to vote and those who did not choose any party or movement doubled. Currently, they form 50 percent of the total. Should this trend continue, a real danger arises that the entire existing spectrum of political parties and movements will cease to represent its former voters. A further decline of trust in the political representation can result in general chaos.

Membership in European Transport Group Gained

LD2805190391 Budapest MTI in English 0609 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 28 (MTI)—Hungary has attained full membership in the European Conference of Transport Ministers (ECTM), following 18 months of observer's status.

Besides Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia were elected full members of ECTM during the May 21-24 session of the organization in Turkey.

Financing of Joint Soviet Trade To Be Discussed

LD3005025991 Budapest MTI in English 1421 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 29 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Trilateral expert talks are to start in Budapest on Thursday to develop a scheme for financing Hungarian-Soviet trade with the involvement of a third party, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], Mr. Tibor Erhard, senior official at the Hungarian Ministry of Finance, host of the talks, told ECONEWS this afternoon.

The Soviet side will be represented by officials from the Ministry of Finance and International Economic Relations and Vnyeshekonombank, while the EBRD will send one of its leading economic experts to the talks.

The idea of involving the EBRD in tackling the disequilibrium in payments in Soviet-Hungarian trade was first brought up by Hungarian Minister of Finance Mihaly Kupa in Moscow in March.

Ministers present at that meeting in the Soviet capital approved the idea by signing a letter of intent.

The founding meeting of the EBRD also assured the interested parties of its support.

The EBRD would not act as creditor in the arrangement as originally planned, but as guarantor, since only this latter role is in line with EBRD statutes.

The EBRD has recommended, though, that in place of the EBRD, other West European banking groups should get involved and grant the credits, with the EC as co-guarantor.

One of these groups is Sao Paolo of Italy, and the other a Belgian banking group.

The planned set-up will mean the internal arrangement of Soviet hard-currency regulations has to be altered. It will come to light at the current talks whether any steps have been taken in this direction, Mr. Erhard added.

Under the original arrangement, each side will be granted a credit quota of, or credit guarantees worth, $500 million.

The size of the quota was established by Hungarian experts who took the expected turnover, the disequilibrium and the difference in payments into consideration.

Dam Project With CSFR To Be Dismantled

LD3005030691 Budapest MTI in English 1318 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 29 (MTI-ECONEWS)—In conjunction with several ministries, the Central Danubian Management Committee and the local councils in the region, the Hungarian Government commissioner in charge of the Danube dam project has just announced a tender for restoring the site at Nagymaros where the joint Hungarian-Czechoslovakian barrage was to have been built to its former state.

The rules of the tender have been carefully checked for compliance with international law, and have been found not to violate the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian inter-state agreement about the dam, Gyorgy Samsondi Kiss, Hungarian government commissioner for the dam, told the press here today.

The winning bids for this initial phase will be made public in the autumn, and next year, a similar, international competition will be invited for totally rehabilitating the dam site.

Actual dismantling work on the circular dam will probably start in the autumn of 1992.

The costs of the operation are estimated at 3-4 billion forints.

Hungary unilaterally suspended all work on the joint Hungarian- Czechoslovakian project back in October 1989.

If it had been completed, the dam would have supplied 2 per cent of Hungary's electricity needs.

Total construction costs would have amounted to $1 billion.

The Hungarian Government withdrew from the dam project because it would have caused irreparable environmental damage, but no satisfactory agreement has been reached with Czechoslovakia about sharing the costs.

Officials Interviewed on Bos-Nagymaros Dam

AU2705115591 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 23 May 91 p 7

[Interview with Minister Without Portfolio Ferenc Madl, Miklos Kiraly, adviser to Prime Minister Antall, and Gyorgy Kiss Samsondi, government commissioner in charge of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage, by Agnes Federer; place and date not given: "The C Variant Does Not Exist Officially"—first two paragraphs are NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] According to certain legal experts, the Hungarian-Czechoslovak state treaty that deals with the realization and operation of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system was not drafted with the appropriate expertise, and it failed to take fundamental national interests into account.

For example, there are no provisions for a possible modification or termination of the plan. Consequently, many people believe that, in actual fact, the Czechoslovak side cannot be forced to continue with negotiations. Ferenc Madl has been acting as the Hungarian Government's representative at the negotiations concerning the future of investments made into the Bos-Nagymaros project. We asked Madl whether there was any chance of the issue being settled in the near future.

[Madl] We unilaterally suspended our operations, and, strictly speaking, we did not only stop work on the Hungarian side because according to the treaty, we should have been working on the Bos part as well. In the meantime, we had discovered that the construction of the barrage would lead to an ecological disaster that could, for example, endanger the potable water reserves of millions of people on both sides of the border. According to the norms of international law, this situation is tantamount to an ecological state of emergency. Furthermore, the treaty stipulated that both sides would devote a lot of care to the cleaning of the water, particularly in the contributory rivers; the treaty also stipulated that both sides would make sure that nearby towns checked their water-polluting activities. This mainly implied obligations on the CSFR side, but at the same time, hardly anything was actually done.

[Federer] Could Hungary's unilateral step be seen as illegal?

[Madl] The aforementioned points already prove that we did not illegally suspend an interstate treaty. Moreover, if a debate were to arise, we have several other arguments to support this statement, of course. We should not take a serious ecological risk just because the water barrage would give us a small energy surplus. We do assume responsibility for the consequences of our decision, and it is quite likely that we will have to foot the larger bill.

[Federer] During the last negotiations that you held with Vladimir Meciar (Slovakia's former prime minister), the two countries seemed to find it difficult to come closer to an agreement.

[Madl] That is unfortunately true. Regardless of that, those negotiations were important, and in a way, they were even successful. It was the first time that we could find out how the Czechoslovak side really feels about this problem. Naturally, we had already heard a lot of reports—for example, there is supposed to be a so-called C variant, according to which the CSFR plans to reroute the Danube. At the same time, we have practically not had any official messages or memorandums; therefore, through this first step, we merely clarified our positions.

[Federer] When can we expect to see the next step, a step that would perhaps bring us a little closer to a solution of this affair?

[Madl] It is now up to the other side to seize the initiative. As you know, Slovakia has appointed a new prime minister since then, but the water barrage is not exclusively a Slovak issue. Vladimir Meciar actually came to Budapest as the representative of the Czech and Slovak Federal Government. At this precise moment in time, we cannot do anything but wait.

[Federer] Many people in Hungary still feel that there is no concrete proof that the constructions in Nagymaros have definitely and irrevocably been halted.

[Madl] From a legal point of view, I think that the decision made by the National Assembly and the government is so clear that it does not require further confirmation.

[Federer] A lot of time has passed since the suspension and cancellation of investments. However, that has not meant a decrease in maintenance costs and other expenses, which amount to millions of forints. At the same time, the barrage is nearly ready on the other side. What can the Hungarian side do to speed up a settlement on the issue?

[Madl] We have to face up to the fact that the Czechoslovak side has pronounced and official 'yes' and that we have replied with a 'no.' We really have to find a way out of this; further delays are not in anybody's interest. The other side is slowly reaching the stage where it could press the start button, but the lock is on the Hungarian side, and they cannot launch the Bos part without that lock. We hope that this peculiar situation will lead to further negotiations—perhaps even this year.

[Federer] What happens if the CSFR also decides to take a unilateral step?

[Madl] You are probably referring to the C variant—that they will create a new reservoir on their own territory, and that they will reroute the Danube to this reservoir. They have not officially announced this plan to us, and it was not referred to at the last negotiations, either. Consequently, we have to behave as though this variant did not exist. We have heard some rumors, and they have not even been totally unfounded. Indeed, when Vladimir Meciar was here, at a news conference after our negotiations, journalists asked the Slovak prime minister about the C plan (albeit in a veiled manner), and Meciar confirmed that there really was such a variant. This shows that they also want to get out of this difficult situation. At the same time, if they take the international legal and political consequences into consideration, I do not think that they will take this step because it would constitute a violation of Hungary's territorial integrity.

[NEPSZABADSAG] [as published] On Tuesday [21 May], the Slovak Government made the following statement: If we fail to reach an agreement with the Hungarian Government on the Bos-Nagymaros affair, we will probably use the C variant to complete the Bos power station in the second half of June. Given that Ferenc Madl was abroad at this point, we asked Miklos Kiraly to react to the Slovak statement.

[Kiraly] We do not consider the Slovak prime minister's statement to be official. On 22 April, we concluded our negotiations by saying that further talks would be held in the near future; therefore, we do not wish to make any comments on these developments until the Slovak side informs us of their future intentions, either in the form of a letter or in some other official form.

[Federer] Mr. Samsondi, what does the C variant actually mean?

[Samsondi] Hardly anybody has any definite information on this variant because we have never been presented with technical documents or descriptions. After the first rumors, I was charged with looking into the matter, and that is how we know that the Slovaks want to reroute the Danube above Rajka—according to the Paris peace treaty, this is pure Czechoslovak territory—with the help of a fixed high-level dike, diverting the water into a channel built into the flood plains on the left bank, and from there, they will divert the water into an already constructed power canal which will take the water into the Bos hydroelectric power station. We see the Slovak Government's current decision as a tactical step because from a technical point of view, the realization of the C variant is questionable, and from an international legal point of view, it is impossible.

Foreign Minister Visits Romanian Border

LD3005025391 Budapest MTI in English 1841 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 29 (MTI)—"If meetings with the Romanian leaders promise results in the opening of additional border crossing points, I shall readily hold talks with them," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said on Wednesday in Bekescsaba, eastern Hungary, at the forum held for the mayors of Bekes County.

Later on, in Sarkad and Mehkerek, on the border, the foreign minister said that he would try to make use of telephone diplomacy as well, in the interest of seeing the road border station between Sarkad and Salonta reopened after the passage of 43 years.

Imre Simon, president of the county representatives' body, announced that the foreign minister visited Bekes mainly to hold talks with the local councils of the villages on the new border crossing stations, the opening of which is supported by the Romanian administrative leadership of the neighbouring Bihor and Arad. The local authorities of Bekes County and the national bodies agree that the former border crossing points at Sarkad and Battonya could be the first to be opened. Later on, the reopening of the locally important border points in Dombegyhaza, Elek, Korosnagyharsany and Lokoshaz could also go ahead.

During the day, the foreign minister visited the Hungarian- Romanian border, the site of the planned Sarkad road crossing point.

Antall News Conference on Government Anniversary

LD2505202391 Budapest MTI in English 1249 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 24 (MTI)—Over the past year, the Hungarian Government has carried out an unparalleled transformation, that of the change in system, amidst the frameworks of the constitution and a law-governed state—said Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on Friday [24 May], at a press conference held on the occasion of the government's accession one year ago.

Hungary has become known as a law-governed state with a democratic system, one in the process of switching to a market economy. Parliamentary democracy has come about, the three-party coalition (consisting of the Democratic Forum, the Independent Smallhorders' Party and the Christian Democratic People's Party) is capable of governing. An operating legal system of the central government and the local governments has come about.

The prime minister stressed his government is acting on the basis of a four-year programme, and its implementation plan, the so-called Kupa programme. "We have been able to realize only so much of the programme as was possible during this period and through the transformation of the system of institutions, and as was permitted by the country's external and internal circumstances." Antall was of the opinion that the government wields a balanced a foreign policy, strives alike for bilateral agreements with its neighbors, the Soviet Union and the Western states, as well as endeavoring to eliminate the tensions related to the transformation taking place in the region, the collapse of Comecon, and the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty.

Discussing economic issues, he noted the favourable changes that have taken place in foreign trade, that the foreign trade balance closed with a surplus in 1990, and that the budget deficit hadn't even reached the 1,500 million forint mark. In 19909, a total of 500 million dollars were invested in Hungary in the form of working capital, and the tendency continued in the first few months of 1991 as well. This indicates the confidence of foreign investors in Hungary.

The transformation of property relations is one of the basic conditions of the change in system. This issue gave rise to the greatest debate. However, privatization is in progress and the compensation law has also been passed.

The past year can be described as successful, all the more so if we compare Hungary's relations to those achieved by the other former socialist states, the tensions there, and the internal processes taking place in those countries, Antall said. Naturally, this is no reason for complacency, he added, mentioning the problems in living standards caused by the transformation, and the problems related to unemployment. The prime minister noted, however, that at least twice as many jobs were eliminated over the past year as the current number of unemployed. The government is aware that transformation is accompanied by huge social tensions, and that the understanding of society and the measures of the governemnt are needed for these to be endured.

In answer to a question, Antall said the government had not committed any irreparable or grave mistakes in the course of its activity to date. Errors in implementation may have been made, the pace of implementing certain matters may also have left something to be desired, however, the government had not committed basic political or economic policy errors.

The differences in views regarding the construction of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros hydro-electric dam system, and the divided opinion over the rights of the national minorities, are causing tension in the otherwise generally good relations with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The possible diversion of the navigable Danube to the Slovak side would constitute a violation of the Trianon and the 1947 Paris peace treaties, Antall said. The latter treaty reasserted the Trianon border of the two coutnries, which set the very centre of the Danube's main flow as the demarcation line. With respect to the national minorities, Antall said: "I do not believe the tensions between Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic are greater than between the Czech and the Slovak Republics in home policy." Minister of Finance Mihaly Kupa added that, at present, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic is the only state in the region with which Hungary has concluded an agreement on the mutual acceptance of national currencies.

In answer to a question on the repayment of foreign debts, Antall said re-scheduling or non-repayment are out of the question for the government, and indeed for the parties of the government coalition.

Kupa said the IMF had called attention, at its recent session in Washington, to the fact that Hungary—which repays its debts reliably and on time—cannot be placed at a disadvantage beside countries that have won cancellation of their debts.

With respect to the 1995 World Expo, and the Vienna plebiscite, Antall said: "we cannot take a stand, and must acknowledge their withdrawal". The Executive Committee of the International Exhibition Bureau (BIE) is to examine the new situation at the end of May. Until then, the position of the Hungarian Government can only be taken as a declaration of intent. The BIE General Assembly will decide, at its session on June 5, whether the case is a force majeure. If so, then Hungary could be eligible to organize the expo on its own. If not, then the organization rights of the 1995 expo will again be announced. Hungary will have the possibility of devising its blueprint for single-handed organization by September 30, 1991. The October general assembly of BIE will decide whether it is willing to accept the new date of 1996, and the idea of Hungary as sole organizer. If so, then Hungary will be the host of the expo, rather than Budapest.

In answer to another question, minister of finance Mihaly Kupa said the Hungarian forint will become a convertible currency within one year.

In conclusion, [words Indistinct] illness, all examination results are negative, and his working ability is unimpaired.

Court Says Compensation Law Counters Constitution

LD3005024991 Budapest MTI in English 1838 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 29 (MTI)—"Certain measures of the compensation law run counter to the Constitution," the Constitutional Court stated in a resolution announced at its session in Budapest on Wednesday.

After examining the measures of the law, already approved by parliament but yet to come into force, the Constitutional Court answered the six questions raised earlier by the president of the Republic, point by point. Of the six issues examined, the Constitutional Court determined three to be unconstitutional. According to the court, one concerns the distinction made between the 100 per cent compensation value limit of land to be reclaimed, and other assets. Another unconstitutional differentiation concerns that in which, according to the scale used for determining compensation, full restoration can be given in the case of land, while the compensation coupons awarded for other kinds of property only constitute partial compensation, grossly undervaluing the current value of the lost property.

The Constitutional Court also stated that the deadline of June 8, 1949, set down in Paragraph 1 of the law, also flouts the Constitution, in view of the vague content of Paragraph 25 of the law. The deadline determines the starting date of grievances providing eligibility for compensation.

According to the court, another unconstitutional element of the law is contained in the way that the entitled can utilize the compensation coupons due to him or her as a means of payment, with a nominal value, to purchase flats in the ownership of the local governments, when the bill goes on to the statute books.

As a consequence of the Constitutional Court's resolution, the president of the Republic cannot promulgate the compensation law until the National Assembly changes the unconstitutional paragraphs of the law.

Soviet Minister Criticizes Bielecki Speech

LD2905155191 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1400 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpt] Soviet Culture Minister Nikolay Gubenko called on participants of the CSCE symposium in Krakow to stand and pay tribute to the memory of Soviet and Polish patriots who perished in the struggle to liberate Krakow. Minister Gubenko alleged that Prime Minister Bielecki, in his speech at the symposium, had danced the chechotka over the grave of the socialist system with the lightness of a weightlifter. According to the minister, certain delegations were trying to exploit the symposium to interfere in the Soviet Union's internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Skubiszewski on Minister's Remarks

LD2905222891 Warsaw PAP in English 2046 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Krakow, May 29—Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said at a press conference here on Wednesday that Soviet Culture Minister Nikolay Gubenko had gone probably too far in his address to the CSCE symposium earlier today rebuking the Polish prime minister for his address.

Skubiszewski admitted that the Soviet Army had freed Krakow from Nazi occupation but added that it also had brought with them the system Poland did not want.

Asked about the presence of Lithuania's representatives in the Polish delegation, which is criticized by the Soviet side, the foreign minister said that Lithuanians, like Estonians, had the status of guests and were not members of any national delegation. He added that representatives of Lithuania and Estonia had previously taken part in the CSCE meetings in Copenhagen, New York and La Valletta.

Security Minister Comments on Military Links

AU2905140891 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 23 May 91 p 2

[Zbigniew Lentowicz report: "An Emergence From 'No Man's Land' Into The West"]

[Text] "After the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, which protected Poland's borders but limited its sovereignty, Poland is in a no man's land of reduced security, just like Hungary or Czechoslovakia," said Lech Kaczynski, minister of state for national security in the Presidential Chancellery, at a seminar in Warsaw organized by the Ministry of National Defense and attended by representatives of political parties. "There are many indications that the USSR is trying to reestablish its old influence by new means. Although Moscow is already talking about tolerating political differences and guaranteeing sovereignty, there is also talk there on common interests in the sphere of collective security.

"During Prime Minister Bielecki's latest visit to the Kremlin, Gorbachev did not conceal his intentions, and said that Poland and the Soviet Union are fated to be allied to each other. We reject such proposals because they could make us dependent on our eastern neighbor once again and isolate us from Europe," said L. Kaczynski. He also stressed that the Belweder is determined to seek the support of solid structures of European security like NATO.

"Poland has not yet officially announced an intention of joining NATO because that is totally unrealistic for the time being. Most of all, Moscow would view that as a violation of a certain balance, and we very much want good, partnerlike relations with the Soviet Union. Apart from that, NATO does not want us for the time being, either. They say in Brussels that an undesirable consequence of such a move would be a consolidation of conservative forces inside the USSR, but we are trying to convince them that it is the preservation of the present inadequately guarded no man's land that is encouraging this consolidation. It is tempting the Kremlin to reestablish its old influence, in a completely new shape of, course.

"Because we will not be able to safeguard our own security for a long time, the Belweder is determined to seek various forms of rapprochement with NATO. Unfortunately, the NATO statute does not foresee a more relaxed associate membership. Nevertheless, Poland will consistently try to move into the orbit of European security, an expression of which is the national defense minister's present visit to the NATO headquarters. President Lech Walesa will also pay a visit there at the beginning of July. Nevertheless," said L. Kaczynski, "even in the ruling camp there are people opposed to the idea of Poland's membership in NATO.

"The Belweder aims to expand the powers of the president and Security Council by legislative means. That includes the power to appoint a commander in chief of the Armed Forces in time of war and the power to deploy the Army not just when there is a foreign threat. The National Security Council will probably be entrusted with the entire sphere of Poland's preparations for defense.

"During the next few months one should expect firm steps in the process of restructuring our Armed Forces. The intention is to enable the Army to act independently on all fronts, give it a purely defensive nature, and increase territorial and civil defense. The long-awaited civilian-military National Defense Ministry will be created, and the Army itself will probably be commanded by an integrated General Staff, whose chief will be general inspector of the Armed Forces.

"Civil defense will no longer be the responsibility of the National Defense Ministry. It will be the responsibility of the prime minister or the ministers responsible for the administration.

"If we were to ratify the additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva convention dealing with the victims of international armed conflicts, we could take greater advantage of the experience and assistance of international civil defense bodies. No doubt that would also compel us to tidy up the law on civil defense, whose activity, even in an occupied country, is governed by international law."

Bielecki Interviewed on Economic Reform

AU2905184091 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 23 May 91 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki by Alina Bialkowska and Jan Bazyl Lipszyc; place and date not given: "The Boundary for the Government"]

[Text] [GAZETA WYBORCZA] We are seeing an escalation of the current wave of strikes. What does the government intend to do, because it will not, after all, use money to end them?

[Bielecki] For the time being there is no strike wave. The time will soon come, however, when enterprises—those that have been kept going with bank loans that are not warranted—will go bust. Are we to continue to finance them, or should we start the liquidation process? Some of them will have to be liquidated, and this is not a question of those that are on strike, but of those that are financially inefficient.

A strike can succeed or fail. During a strike, the competition can make gains, and once the strike is over, it suddenly transpires that only half the enterprise is needed. That could have been the case with the Warsaw Municipal Sanitation enterprise.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] So you are not appalled by the strikes?

[Bielecki] A general strike would be a vote of no confidence. It would signify the end of a particular period of activity and the end of a particular direction of change.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] The instruments that the government has been using to deal with the recession have proven ineffective. Apart from privatization, will any other steps be taken to increase enterprise efficiency?

[Bielecki] That is one of my favorite topics. The recession is the price we must pay for the transition from an unreal system to one that is based on real money, for the transition to a system in which the central planner ceases to be a charlatan who juggles figures and often issues worthless money.

Professor Winiecki estimates that a decline in output of between 10 and 15 percent is the normal price for breaking away from an economy plagued by shortages. The example of Polish State Railways provides a splendid illustration of this. It now transports 260 million tons of freight, but according to forecasts made a few years ago, it was meant to transport 760 million tons of freight this year. These forecasts were based on the fact that freight that was meant to be moved from Szczecin to Stargard was transported through Wroclaw.

It would be disastrous to decide to transform many enterprises into state treasury companies without taking any additional steps. That is what happened in the case of Starachowice, because people hoped that it would attract foreign investment and would make restructuring the plant possible. It ended, however, with the transformation of the plant into a treasury company.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How could the process of introducing changes in enterprises have been speeded up? What mistakes were made?

[Bielecki] Answering these questions today is no extraordinary feat. First, exporting goods to the East was made easy by subsidizing exports out of the budget. The exchange rate for the ruble was adjusted on three occasions: On one occasion it was lowered, on the other two it was raised. This gave the wrong signal to enterprises, because it created the impression that it would be possible "to dump goods."

Enterprises were not bluntly told that, for example, the "countdown to liquidation" would begin on 1 June and it would end with the arrival of the court executive officer. In fact, last year, when there were still no problems with the budget, it would have been possible to show that kind of consistency.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] The government has decided that this year it, the government, will turn 700 enterprises into commercial operations. Why will that not happen to all 8,000 state plants?

[Bielecki] In order to answer that question it is necessary to tell state enterprises what prospects they have as quickly as possible. Do they have any right at all to exist in Poland? If so, under what kind of management system?

A mass transition to the commercial operation form, disregarding the political effect, would be best. That would be extremely complicated, however, if not impossible to realize. Thousands of statutes would have to be drawn up for the enterprises, suitable people would have to be found for the boards of directors, and that would have to be done as quickly as possible to avoid creating chaos.

We have divided up the state sector into three parts. The first consists of several hundred large enterprises that will be turned into commercial operations on a mass scale. Theoretically, these enterprises will be the better ones, those that are financially sound, and are important for the state budget. The second group consists of between 2,000 and 3,000 small and medium-sized plants, which are to be liquidated under a simpler procedure, which does not, of course, mean a physical end to them. The rest consists of those that will remain state enterprises for the time being, but will have a new system of management.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Are you not afraid that the mass commercialization process will lead to the preservation of the current economic structure?

[Bielecki] I agree that this danger does exist. We will create a group of people who will be responsible for this area within the Finance Ministry. Every firm will receive a ready-made plan of action, which will provide advice on how to dispose of those parts of an enterprise that are not needed. That will make it possible to reduce employment and increase the wages of the remaining employees without falling into the trap of the tax on excess wage growth. The money that is saved will be kept within the enterprises and that will give them an incentive to manage more efficiently.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How important will Thursday's [23 May] economic debate in the Sejm be?

[Bielecki] We draw up draft laws that then spend months at the Sejm. Our latest proposals, which concern the speeding up of privatization, will call for changes to six exceptionally important pieces of legislation. All of this must be completed by the middle of June.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] How many important economic bills are waiting to be considered by the Sejm, and how many have been passed since you were made prime minister?

[Bielecki] The Sejm has been dealing with outstanding legislation. It has only considered one piece of legislation proposed by us—it would have allowed us to dismiss state administrative officials without having to pay nine months severance pay—and that was rejected.

Much more important bills dealing with the taxation system, which were prepared by the previous government, are still awaiting consideration by the Sejm.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Mr. Prime Minister, why did you first publicly mention the holdup that has produced a legislative backlog only three weeks ago, and not in February or in March?

[Bielecki] It did not seem to pose a threat at that time. We thought that we would have the taxation legislation passed in May, and that what I considered particularly important, the cherished law on joint ventures, would be passed by the Sejm in March. It seemed that the most important things I talked about in my first Sejm speech on government policy—debt reduction, visas, World Bank loans, and a new law for foreign investors—would be achieved.

The breakdown in the legislative process only became apparent in April. The debate concerning the electoral code and a date for the elections suddenly swept the economy off the scene in the Sejm. However, I have to admit to some fault on my part, too, because we are only now in a position to introduce measures that will bring about adjustments in enterprises. That will require further legislative moves: That is the way it is in Poland, there is some law covering every trifling matter.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] The government has adopted a program of rapid change in the private sector. In light of the mood in the Sejm and the rate at which it is carrying out its work, do you expect the provisions of the program to be approved, and if so, when?

[Bielecki] One can put that rather more drastically: If it does not, then what are we to do?

Fortunately, there are certain steps that can be taken without amending legislation, including the transformation of state enterprises into commercial operations by the government itself. That is the very area in which I expect resistance to be strongest, because it means the resolute assumption of authority by the center.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] So you expect resistance?

[Bielecki] That will become apparent on 24 May, when we describe our scenario for action. In our opinion, the scenario is essential if we are to have at least a minimal possibility of directing the economy. The scheduling is also important, as the laws should be passed by 15 June.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] If they are not, is there some kind of alternative course in reserve?

[Bielecki] I think we do not have one.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Is that a boundary beyond which there will be no role for the Bielecki government?

[Bielecki] That is right. The second boundary is the absence of public support for our moves, not only union support, but much broader support.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Mr. Prime Minister, this year's budget is collapsing. What ideas are there for reversing the catastrophe, particularly in the health service and education?

[Bielecki] I do not agree with the assertion that the budget is collapsing. The deficit is being maintained at a certain level.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] But that is thanks to numerous cutbacks in expenditure.

[Bielecki] That is true, but what is probably worse is that revenue is and probably will be lower than we planned.

The health service, which uses up a large part of the budget, spends the money that it is allocated fastest of all. Yet, the reform of the health service actually only got under way in February.

It is a question of political courage. Only Jacek Kuron had the courage to say what he thought about retirement pensions, and that did not end all that well for him. Today, we must talk about the privileges enjoyed in certain branches of the economy and about covering health service costs.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Does your government have the courage to talk about these things?

[Bielecki] We have a law on retirement and other pensions before the Sejm, drugs are being paid for, and by 20 June Minister Sidorowicz is to present a package of immediate anti-crisis measures for the health service. An answer will have to be provided to the question of whether it is possible to introduce a symbolic payment, a flat rate of between 10,000 and 20,000 zlotys, for the use of medical services.

I am in favor of considering that solution. It will be just one more reason to criticize my government.

[GAZETA WYBORCZA] Will the government survive the criticism?

[Bielecki] The reform requires public support. The reorganization of the state is a difficult and painful process. It is not something that can be achieved overnight.

The market economy is the future, and today, we are only at the stage of creating the conditions that are necessary for that future.

Conflicts are and will remain a permanent feature of the process. It is important for there to be clearly defined roles for the government, legislature, the trade unions, and enterprise managements.

It is not a question of the fate of this government, but solely one of determination to carry on with the implementation of change.

Poll Shows Poles 'Losing Hope' in Economy

AU2905122191 Warsaw PAP in English 1330 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 26—Poles are rapidly losing hope for an improvement in their living standards within the next two years, according to a poll carried out by the Public Opinion Polling Centre (CBOS) on May 18-21.

For the first time in recent months there were more pessimistic opinions than optimistic ones expressed by those polled as only 28 per cent of them expect better living standards (against 38 per cent in April), while 32 per cent fear their living standards will go down (26 per cent in April).

Seventy per cent of those polled found the economic situation in Poland as bad, 17 per cent thought it was average, and only 8 per cent found it good. When compared with last April's figures, the number of those giving a pessimistic assessment of the condition of the Polish economy went up by 22 per cent, while the number of optimistic assessments went down by 12 per cent.

The public support for the Balcerowicz plan of economic reforms went down from 37 per cent in April to 21 per cent in May and the number of its opponents increased from 25 to 38 percent, which give the lowest "net" approval of the plan since the time it was launched.

Public's Pessimism Analyzed

AU2905121991 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 27 May 91 p 1

["US" signed report: "In the Red"]

[Text] The results of the May opinion poll conducted by the Public Opinion Research Center are a warning signal for the government and should not be disregarded by it. It is worth pointing out, however, that the poll was conducted on the eve of the "Solidarity" nationwide protest action and the Belweder economists conference, which were attended by a fierce campaign of attacks on the government.

As no marked economic downturn—which could have prompted such a drastic drop in support for the government—was registered in the period between April and May, one must conclude that those two events were important factors behind the increased pessimism of the public.

Labor Minister on Social Unrest, Union Talks

AU2905143291 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA Economy and Law Supplement in Polish 25-26 May 91 p 1

[Danuta Walewska report: "Politics and the Economy"]

[Text] At the 25 May Council of Ministers session, Michal Boni, minister of labor and social policy, read a report on current talks with the trade unions and the strikes in Poland.

"On 22 May, the Office of the Council of Ministers and other government offices received documents produced by 'Solidarity'," he said. "These documents kept repeating that there is lack of a concept for industrial development, tax discrimination against state enterprises, a deepening recession, an impoverishment of society, and a still-existent influence on socioeconomic life by the nomenklatura. That was one set of complaints. The second set of complaints concerned the absence of a clear-cut concept for social policy, the unfairness of privatization policy, the inefficiency of state bodies of control, and the deterioration of cultural assets. The third set of complaints concerns the weakness of the health service and social security system, inflation, the arrogance of the authorities, and the ruination and plundering of state enterprises. The government is of the opinion that the present complaints possess not just an economic background, but a political one. Therefore," Minister Boni continued, "on 25 May it was decided to seek a political solution to this issue. The first step will be an improvement to government information policy. It was also determined that the only course of action is a determined and consistent presentation of our views, coupled with negotiations. We in the government made a mistake by not commencing negotiations ourselves. Instead, we waited for society's reaction.

"These negotiations are meant to win allies for the government. We intend to start talks with local government representatives soon, for these are considered to be a very important ally. We also plan talks with opinion-forming circles.

"The government foresees two possible ways in which the current situation in Poland may develop," Minister Boni continued. "Either the point of combustion will shift somewhere else, or the dissatisfaction will blow over. Therefore, at the Council of Ministers session 28 May, the government will, in response to 'Solidarity' Chairman Marian Krzaklewski's request, consider the appointment of teams of people to prepare talks on industrial policy, steps to combat inflation while permitting increases in wages, procedures to be followed in ownership changes, the situation of communal enterprises, problems of energy generation and the railroads, social policy, health care, and observance of the law, i.e. the struggle against the nomenklatura, corruption, etc.

"All this would pave the way for concrete talks with 'Solidarity' itself. Talks with the All-Polish Trade Union Accord [OPZZ] are also planned. New rules for working out the lowest permissible wages are being considered, and a system of housing benefits, expanded to include compensation for increased gas and electricity costs, will be discussed with the trade unions," concluded Minister Boni.

A Council of Ministers session on government social policy is scheduled to take place in the first half of June.

Walesa, Advisors Discuss Election Regulations

LD3005033891 Warsaw PAP in English 1758 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 29—Presidential Spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski said on Wednesday President Lech Walesa had not yet made a decision whether to sign electoral regulations or to adopt a different solution. Drzycimski said the president would make a final decision next week and, irrespective of whether he signed the regulations or not, announce the envisaged date of the elections.

President Walesa discussed electoral regulations Wednesday with his advisory committee and chairman of the National Citizen's Committee Zdzislaw Najder. The debaters stressed that the regulations were unclear and making it difficult to understand the meaning of parliamentary democracy and shaping parties and electoral coalitions. They opined that the regulations could become an element delaying the elections which, as the president stressed, should be held still this year, not later than on October 27, 1991.

Walesa obliged his advisory committee to further analyze the work of the president's office in the area of foreign policy and to present opinions on Poland's current political situation. The committee also received the task of preparing the route of the president's tours of Poland, to start after the papal pilgrimage.

The debaters also sized up the results of the recent economic meeting held in the Belweder and said the government long-range economic policy required support, although some actions should be changed.

Press Reaction to 2d UDMR Congress Noted

AU2905123691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/5/1991—The Romanian press is devoting columns to the 2nd congress of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [UDMR]—a party with second largest representation in parliament—which took place over May 24-26 in Tirgu Mures. Daily "ADEVARUL" appreciates the total openness of debates and the unlimited access of mass media to the participants in the congress and to the forum's papers, an openness which, according to daily "ROMANIA LIBERA", "has played an important part in easing inter-ethnic tensions that could not be perceived throughout proceedings"; daily "DREPTATEA" evinces the "exceptional organization" and "unusual democratic ways" of the congress.

"ADEVARUL", an independent daily, points out in article "Two Wings for the Seesaw" that after the "exhausting 10-hour marathon race of elections" "the re-election of Mr. Domokos Geza as UDMR chairman looks like a victory of the moderate wing of the union over the radical one, as has become apparent all through debates". Recalling that "radicalism has secured for itself both the honorary presidency—Mr. Laszlo Tokes—and two vice presidencies—Messrs. Geza Szocs and Gabor Kolumban", the same daily opines that "it is hard to say which of the wings has really won and speaking of a compromise to save UDMR unity is perhaps closer to the truth."

Independent daily "ROMANIA LIBERA" thinks "openness and democracy have been the two power engines that set the 2nd UDMR congress in motion." It appreciates that the "original conception and unfolding of the congress, in Tirgu Mures of all places, justifies the hope that we are not doomed, at least as far as inter-ethnic relations are concerned".

"AZI"—National Salvation Front daily—notes that "from the very first day of debates the congress witnessed a dark struggle for power between the moderate and radical wings, clearly outlined by the total openness of procedure". The same daily notices the honorary president "turned coat" in the process of debates, gradually moving from a radical to a moderate position.

"UDMR unity was only an impression. Things are rather the opposite. And those were not recent dissensions either", daily "CURIERUL NATIONAL" comments. It makes a broad outline of the two main trends in matters of social vision and political practice, concluding that "the radical line often tends to oversize actual topics under discussion". However, the daily adds, "elections confirmed the realistic moderate trend was stronger."

Under the headline "our future in Romania must be built at the same time as Romanian democracy", daily "DREPTATEA", National Peasant Party mouthpiece, while highlighting the victory of the moderate line, stresses "UDMR's readiness to collaborate with the other political groups in finding joint solutions."

Workers' Social-Democratic Union Established

AU2905130491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1237 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 29/5/1991—Representatives of the Party of Labor and of the Romanian Workers' Social-Democratic Party decided on May 28 to set up the Workers' Social-Democratic Union [PSDMR], a political alliance based on social-democratic principles and experience and on the Romanian and international traditions of the workers' movement.

A communique sent to ROMPRES by the Political Coordinating Council of the Union, says PSDMR is open to collaboration and contacts with all political groups that may join its platform and are determined to militate for the principles of the democratic left.

Brucan on Process of Passage to Market Economy

AU2905132491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1238 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 29/5/1991—Starting from the remark that "the passage to a market economy is a very painful and difficult process, with inflation and unemployment as its immediate effects", Politologist Silviu Brucan says in an article published by daily "LIBERTATEA": "the government, any government, is able to avoid neither the inflation triggered by price reform, nor unemployment caused by privatization, nor a number of profiteers who make fortunes overnight". Now that the new institutions of the executive have just come to life, and that legislative power, despite the passage of a considerable package of laws, has still a weakness for festive speeches, Silviu Brucan opines, the only hope left is judiciary power. "Here lies the key to our problem", he reasons, "because the passage to a market economy requires a strong and severe state of law with judiciary power working both as a source and a major guarantee of authority."

Mr. Brucan finds that neither the civilians called to found the new society nor the present rulers are aware that "in fact, democracy, for the very reason that it cannot resort to repression, must show more not less authority."

"The first commandment of our society, at the moment, is respect of the law, from bottom to top", Mr. Silviu Brucan says.

'Solution' Proposed to Presidency Crisis

LD2905185791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1733 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—Members of the SFRY Presidency Borisav Jovic, Branko Kostic, Sejdo Bajramovic and Jugoslav Kostic have proposed a solution to the leadership crisis in the top state body. The proposal calls on the republics of Croatia and Montenegro to renounce their nominations to the posts of the president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency and to hand them over to Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia. Here is the proposal:

"The representative of the Republic of Croatia in the SFRY Presidency, Stipe Mesic, failed to receive the necessary majority when the voting for the Presidency president took place. The election of the SFRY Presidency vice president, whose candidature is not disputed by anyone, is conditioned by the election of Stipe Mesic as the president. As a result of this conditioning, it is obvious that there are no realistic chances that the president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency will be elected as long as the candidates presented in line with the annual rotation planned by the SFRY Presidency standing orders, remain to be nominated.

"The Croatian Assembly and the Montengrin Assembly can present different candidates for the posts of the president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency, following which voting can take place again. If the Croatian Assembly and the Montenegrin Assembly want to keep Stipe Mesic and Branko Kostic as their representatives in the SFRY Presidency, irrespective of the fact that they cannot be elected to the posts of the president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency, it is necessary to agree on a method of work of the SFRY presidency until an appropriate solution is found on how to fill the vacated posts.

"In real terms, the essence of the conflict over the election of president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency does not lie in the personalities proposed as candidates, but in the conflicting concepts and views on Yugoslavia's future, and it is therefore very difficult to elect people who could carry out these functions from the republics where these concepts and views have been transformed into specific platforms.

"So conditions can be created for the normal functioning of the SFRY Presidency and that democratic dialogue on finding a solution to the situation in Yugoslavia can be resumed, we propose that Croatia and Montenegro renounce the posts of president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency this year and that Bogic Bogicevic, representative of Bosnia-Hercegovina, be elected president of the SFRY Presidency, and Vasil Tupurkovski, representative from Macedonia, its vice president.

"The proposal foresees that in the course of this year efforts will be made to alter the standing orders on the activity of the SFRY Presidency and establish a new order of rotation, unless a new constitution is adopted and a new regulation on the role of the president of the SFRY Presidency is passed in the meantime. The existing order of rotation was established much earlier, within the framework of the federal conference of the socialist alliance, which no longer exists as a body at federation level. Numerous earlier functions at the level of the federation, on the basis of which the existing rotation was agreed, are now practically reduced to the function of president of the SFRY Presidency, president of the SFRY Assembly, and president of the Federal Executive Council. This is one more reason for establishing a new order of rotation by changing the standing orders concerning the activity of the SFRY Presidency in the course of the year.

"We believe that such a proposal could represent a solution acceptable for all and that it would be useful to hold consultations in republics whose representatives in the Presidency consider it necessary, although the members of the Presidency are not required to do so by the mandate for their assemblies, and this could be discussed at the next session of the SFRY Presidency."

The statement is signed by members of the SFRY Presidency: Borisav Jovic, Branko Kostic, Sejdo Bajramovic, and Jugoslav Kostic.

Press Cited on Confidence Vote in Government

LD3005040591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1611 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 29 (TANJUG)—Yesterday's vote of confidence of the Yugoslav Assembly in the Federal Government shows that the program of Prime Minister Ante Markovic's government "at the moment is the only one which could make some headway towards a reasonable settlement of the serious crisis," the Belgrade daily BORBA writes today.

The government of Prime Minister Markovic is the first in Yugoslav post-war history for which the federal parliament called a vote of no confidence.

Thirty-two delegates were against calling a vote of no confidence in the federal government, eleven were for and three abstained. Representatives of the Province of Vojvodina, which is a part of the Republic of Serbia, raised the question of no confidence in the federal government.

The Sarajevo daily OSLOBODJENJE writes in today's issue that "there are very few people who dispute the basic concept of Markovic's reform" and that "even the sharpest critics cannot but admit that there were strong obstructions against the implementation of the program."

The daily's commentator concludes from this that "neither is the program or its implementation the reason which stands behind raising the no cofidence vote, but something completely different."

Underscoring that despite all difficulties, "Markovic's government has remained true to the program and to itself...," OSLOBODJENJE adds that the support which the program received abroad "is capital which deserves respect."

According to an assessment of TANJUG News Agency's commentator, the vote of confidence in the government "can have true significance only if the practical moves of the federal units are in line with the government's reform program."

Assembly Chamber President on Procedural Problems

LD2905183591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1046 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—The SFRY Presidency does not function, and hence the Chamber of Republics and Provinces of the SFRY Assembly is experiencing increasingly difficult problems in its work, Chamber President Miran Mejak told TANJUG.

According to Mejak, the chamber is now facing two basic problems. One is how to prepare and implement a procedure for the adoption of temporary measures proposed by the collective head of state. These are laws adopted when republican assemblies fail to agree on their adoption, laws that are of paramount importance for the functioning of the state.

The other problem refers to the continuation of discussion on a report on the political and security situation in the country, presented in the Yugoslav Assembly in April by Borisav Jovic on behalf of the SFRY Presidency. Now, Mejak said, the question arises, who is going to represent the Presidency at a session of the Chamber of Republics and Provinces when the report is discussed. According to him, it can be only a representative of the SFRY Presidency, supported by this same body. This, however, is a problem that should be solved by the Presidency itself through the delegation of its representative.

No Decision on President at Presidency Session

LD2905174191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1704 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—The SFRY Presidency's Information Service issued a statement this afternoon. The text of the statement reads:

"The continuation of the 120th SFRY Presidency session scheduled for today was not held because members of the SFRY Presidency Janez Drnovsek, Stipe Mesic, and Vasil Tupurkovski declined the invitation.

Although the five members of the SFRY Presidency who gathered together could have held a session according to the provisions laid down by the code of practice, it was judged that no decision on the election of a president and a vice president of the SFRY should be reached in the absence of the other three members.

During a working meeting, the SFRY Presidency members noted that a large number of questions within the jurisdiction of the SFRY Presidency need attention, such as the security situation in the country, implementing the 9 May SFRY Presidency decisions, the continuation of inter-republican talks and the ones in the SFRY Presidency, the country's future system, as well as a large number of current issues—the reception of credentials, the signing of decrees, the reception of delegations, etc.

For this reason it was agreed that additional efforts will be invested for organizing a working meeting of the SFRY Presidency with all the members present so that an agreement can be reached on the functioning of the SFRY Presidency until an SFRY Presidency president and vice president are elected."

Mesic Comments on Talks With EC Officials

LD2905220891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1842 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—I expect the involvement of the EC delegation to help the SFRY Presidency out of the deadlock it is in, Stipe Mesic told journalists this evening in New Belgrade's Federation Palace, following his talks with EC officials Jacques Santer and Jacques Delors.

Mesic noted that the talks with the EC guests were informative, and he said that another meeting was set for tomorrow. He said the senior EC officials addressed him in their talks as the president of the SFRY Presidency. I expressed my view of the Yugoslav crisis and its causes, stating that there is no question of a civil war, "but that there are those who would like to create greater states on the ruins of Yugoslavia," Mesic continued. In this connection I stressed Serbia, because "the Serbian regime has not solved a single cause of the crisis, especially not Kosovo, and it is now shifting the crisis into Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina." According to Mesic, there are no conflicts in Croatia between the Croats and the Serbs. He said this has been shown by the results of the referendum in which "a majority of Serbs voted for a sovereign Croatia." There are militant and orchestrated conflicts, that is a fact, but there is shooting in Corsica and the Basque country, and that is not a civil war.

After the talks, Mesic said that it is clearer to the EC guests that this model, a replica of the Soviet model, is undergoing a profound crisis, and that a new model should be created, while in the meantime the functioning of the system should be ensured. Mesic said he informed the EC leaders that all 12 former presidents of the SFRY Presidency were proclaimed simply by ascertaining that the provisions of the Constitution and the standing orders were observed, but that "Jovic has suddenly implemented voting."

The Constitution mentions the word "elect," but Mesic said this is only in the sense of "ascertaining that it was 15 May, and that it was the turn of another republic." There never used to be voting, Mesic said, adding that only Serbia is against him. "They do not understand equality," he said, opposing the proposals that Croatia should suggest a new man for the president of the Presidency. Commenting on the initiative of the four Presidency members to change the order of rotation, and instead of Croatia and Montenegro, have Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia present the president and the vice president of the Presidency, Mesic said that "it has nothing to do with the Constitution." "It is nonsense," and the crisis in the Presidency cannot be resolved in this way, he said. "I will attend the Presidency session only when we come to the constitution of the president," Mesic said, and expressed the conviction that the Presidency will continue to meet in the future. Those who, as he said, blocked the Presidency, should learn a lesson from this. "I know that many people do not like me, but there are many people I do not like, either. What does this mean, however, when the president of the Presidency was always appointed automatically?" Mesic asked in conclusion.

EC Prepared To Support Reforms

LD2905200991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1747 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—The EC is prepared to use concrete measures to support the reform course of the Yugoslav government and the program which the government is implementing, all of which is designed to overcome the present difficulties in the country. This stance was stressed today by President of the European Council, Jacques Santer, and President of the European Commission Jacques Delors, in talks with the Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar in the Federation Palace immediately after their arrival in Belgrade on a two-day visit to Yugoslavia.

The first round of talks in Belgrade was mainly devoted to the familiarization of the eminent guests from the EC with the present political and economic situation in Yugoslavia and the possibilities for expanding cooperation with the EC.

Both sides expressed the desire to open up prospects for expanding cooperation, and in the Yugoslav view this can be realized on two bases: financially, by means of the third protocol and other packages; and through talks on concluding an agreement on Yugoslavia's association with the EC.

The EC mission gave its support to the reform course and efforts that the government is making to overcome the existing difficulties in Yugoslavia. In this connection great concern was expressed over the situation in Yugoslavia, and the deadlock in the SFRY Presidency arising out of failure to elect a new president.

In Yugoslav official circles it is being stressed this evening that the first round of talks with the guests from the EC took place in a very good atmosphere. The importance of the visit by the EC mission is also emphasized, especially because of the real possibilities for expanding and institutionalizing future cooperation, which would undoubtedly contribute to the solution of the crisis in Yugoslavia.

It is expected that relations between the EC and Yugoslavia and possible EC assistance in overcoming the crisis will be discussed in more concrete terms late this evening in the course of the working dinner.

The EC mission has come to Belgrade to receive first-hand information on the situation in Yugoslavia and through support to the Federal Government to offer support at the same time for a solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

After the first round to talks, Santer and Delors met with three members of the SFRY Presidency: Stipe Mesic, Vasil Tupurkovski, and Borisav Jovic. These were separate meetings behind closed doors.

Milosevic Proposes Plan for Crisis Resolution

LD3005100891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0857 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 30 May (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today presented to the Serbian Assembly a draft resolution of the current crisis.

Milosevic proposed that: Political institutions in the country and the Yugoslav People's Army guarantee peace and prevent armed formations from being active; a constitutional law on the right to self-determination be passed; a referendum be held in all republics at the same time, in the same way, and with the same question; and the will of the people is to be realized in line with the outcome of the referendum.

Finally, Milosevic proposed calling multiparty elections for the SFRY Assembly.

Raises Issue of Internal Borders

LD3005092491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0854 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Belgrade 30 May (TANJUG)—Attempts to brand as banditry and outlawry—through noisy propaganda—grass roots self-defense is a sign of the impotence of chauvinistic and pro-fascist concepts, Slobodan Milosevic said in a speech to the deputies of the Serbian Assembly concerning negotiations until now between the six republican presidents.

Milosevic added that those who make claims about banditry and outlawry cannot foresee that one can be a bandit or outlaw in one's own courtyard and on the threshold of one's own home.

Talking about current secessionist demands, Milosevic said those wanting to leave Yugoslavia must face the issue of internal borders, which were never state, but only arbitrary borders.

Says Pressure Exerted on Serbia

LD3005084891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0824 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 30 May (TANJUG)—Economic crisis and national conflicts have weakened Yugoslavia. It is evident that foreign factors have been exerting open pressure on it, and in particular, great political and economic pressure has been exerted on Serbia with the aim of influencing her policies.

This was stressed by Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, in a speech to the Serbian Assembly at the beginning of a session that is considering the outcome of the first round of unfinished talks about the country's future between six republican presidents.

Serbian Assembly Rejects Debate on Krajina

LD2905193491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1732 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 29 (TANJUG)—Parliament of the republic of Serbia did not accept a proposal today to debate the joining to Serbia of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region Krajina which was founded in the Republic of Croatia by several predominantly Serbian-populated municipalities.

Parliament, however, found that the political will of the Serbian people in the autonomous region Krajina would have to be respected in every variant of solving the Yugoslav crisis. The authorities in Croatia do not recognize the autonomous region Krajina. Today, Krajina proclaimed itself a separate Yugoslav federal unit.

Parliament declined to debate a proposal to take off the five-pointed star symbols from the republican colours and coat of arms. It was said that a commission has already been set up for the national anthem, banner and coat of arms, to convey its proposals to parliament. People at a referendum would decide on the state symbols.

Deputies of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), parliament's strongest opposition party, protested and walked out. SPO has 19 MP seats.

The SPO deputies said that the ruling Socialist Party, which has absolute majority in parliament, is not entitled to impose its symbol (five-pointed star) as a state symbol, and announced that demonstrations would be held on June 9.

Krajinan Serbs, Assemby Delegates Discuss Ties

LD2905082991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-croatian 0955 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 28 May (TANJUG)—Political solutions for the future of Yugoslavia must, in their essence, be democratic and must not bring into question the interests of any one Yugoslav nation. This is a conclusion that was reached last night during talks between a delegation of the Serbian people of Krajina and the Serbian Assembly, on which an official statement was issued this morning by the Serbian Assembly's Information Service.

The statement says that representatives of the Serbian people of Krajina, Zdravko Zecevic, Lazar Macura, Slobodan Ovuka, Jasminka Mandic, and Ljubica Vujaniv, were received in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia by assembly vice-presidents Borivoje Petrovic, Pavic Obradovic, Vukasin Jokanovic, and Radovan Pankov; by Slobodan Rakitic; chairman of the Serbian Renaissance Movement group of deputies, Dragoljub Micunovic; chairman of the Democratic Party group of deputies, Radoman Bozovic; chairman of the committee for links with Serbs outside Serbia, and Stanko Cvijan, Serbian minister for links with Serbs outside Serbia.

The representatives of the Serbian people of Krajina informed the representatives of the Serbian Assembly that a referendum was held in Krajina on 12 May this year, at which the Serbs of Krajina voted to remain in Yugoslavia with Serbia, Montenegro, and all others who wish Yugoslavia to be preserved.

Representatives of the Serbian Assembly stressed that the results of the referendum were an expression of the political will of the Serbian people of Krajina. Serbia has been urging the integrity of Yugoslavia and its aspirations are the same as those of the people of Krajina.

Representatives of the Serbian Assembly stressed that the preservation of Yugoslavia is of particular importance for the Serbian people, because in this way it can live as an undivided entity and gain its legitimate, national interests. The Serbian people has the historic right and need to live within one democratic state and this must be respected in every variant of settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

The politically expressed will of the Serbian people of Krajina at the referendum should be implemented in a constitutional way and through legal Yugoslav institutions. The statement further says that results of the referendum in Krajina and in the Republic of Croatia should comprehensively be taken into consideration within the framework of talks being held to find a way out of the Yugoslav crisis.

The representatives of the Serbian Assembly and the representatives of the Serbian people of Krajina pointed to the need for more comprehensive integration and cooperation in the sphere of economic relations and social services.

An agreement was reached to propose to the Serbian government to prepare a report on the implementation of human rights of the Serbian people in Croatia. At a special session the Serbian Assembly should discuss this issue and inform the public in the country and abroad about its findings.

Krajina Assembly Deputies Elect Ministers

LD2905181491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1505 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Knin, 29 May (TANJUG)—During its session today the assembly of the Krajina Serbian Autonomous Region proclaimed its present "basic statute act" to be "a constitutional law" because "the conditions for it were ripe," as Milan Babic put it when explaining the further "institutionalization of this area." According to him "Krajina is a federal unit in which the laws and other regulations of the Republic of Serbia will be applied."

In this connection the "Krajina assembly" deputies approved "a package of laws in the sphere of the judiciary and administration and on the formation of ministries." Milan Babic heads the government; and his deputy is Dusan Starcevic, who will also discharge the "duties of the minister of education, culture, and physical culture." Milan Martic has been chosen as minister of defense and Dusan Vjestica as minister of internal affairs. Writer Jovan Radulovic has been elected minister of foreign affairs and Risto Matkovic minister of justice and administration. Veljko Stojsavljevic heads the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Water Resources, Tourism and Trade; and Branko Sipraga heads the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Dusan Badja has been elected minister of education and Dr. Vaso Lezaic minister of health, social work and social policy. Lazar Macura has been elected minister of information and Petar Stikavac minister for religions.

By virtue of the changes effected in the "constitutional law, the official language used in Krajina is Serbo-Croat using the Cyrillic script; while in municipalities where the Croats account for not less than 8 percent of the population, the Croatian linguistic standard may also be officially used and its official title is the same as in the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia." This stance applies also to national minorities.

The "Krajina assembly" also passed a decision setting up "special-purpose units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and operating under the Defense Ministry."

Renaissance Movement Quits Serbian Assembly

LD2905191491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1527 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 29 May (TANJUG)—The legislative group of the Serbian Renaissance Movement [Srpski Pokret Obnove—SPO] has walked out of the ninth session of the Serbian Assembly. According to the explanation given at a news conference that took place unexpectedly during a break in the assembly session, the reason for leaving the session was the ignoring of the proposals to include on the session agenda the decision of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina to join Serbia, the decision on removing the red star from state symbols, the abolition of 7 July and 29 November as state holidays, and the decision on the use of "God give us justice" [old Serbian anthem] as the Serbian anthem. [passage omitted]

The assembly walkout only relates to the ninth session, after which the SPD deputies will rejoin the work of the legislature, it was said today.

Relief Headquarters Set Up for Serbs in Croatia

LD3005053691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1406 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pristina, 29 May (TANJUG)—At the initiative of the Pristina municipal committee of the Serbian Socialist Party [Socijalisticka Partija Serbije—SPS], a relief headquarters for the Serbs in Croatia has been set up. The relief headquarters consists of numerous political organizations and citizens' associations. The headquarters' task is to coordinate and synchronize all relief activities for the Serbian people in Croatia and other parts where their basic civil rights are endangered. A published statement says the tasks will be coordinated with the developments in Croatia and Yugoslavia.

The headquarters will collect material aid from citizens and private and socially owned enterprises. It will also collect food, medicines, and other necessities such as textbooks, and books, and it will organize exhibitions, concerts, plays, public platforms, and more.

All activities of the relief headquarters are coordinated with the appropriate Serbian ministries, as well as provincial and municipal bodies, the statement concludes.

Minister Jansa Responds to JNA 'Ultimatum'

AU2905113191 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2000 GMT 28 May 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Janez Jansa by Robert Skerjanc; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, this evening we telephoned the Republican Secretariat for National Defense, and asked Defense Minister Janez Jansa about the situation in Slovenia regarding the tensions between the republic and the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA]. We also asked him to comment on the stands of the Fifth Military District, announced today, and their ultimatum to the Slovene government.

[Skerjanc] Mr. Jansa, could you tell us what the current situation in Slovenia is considering the fact that the JNA addressed a demand to the Slovene Executive Council that

the armored personnel carriers be returned by 1900. Three hours have passed since then. What is the current situation?

[Jansa] Good evening, first I would like to say that we have replied to the demand by the Federal Secretariat for National Defense. In content, the reply matches the statement that we made for the public, we listed the reasons for taking those preventive measures. A reaction, a reply to our stands has still not arrived.

[Skerjanc] What are the aims of such an aggravation, which we are again witnessing?

[Jansa] Well, the general political aim can easily be linked with the efforts of the coordinator in the Federal Presidency, the so-called coordinator Bajramovic, to call a session at any price. Today, this attempt failed as some of the Presidency's members did not participate in the session; therefore, he will try to achieve this tomorrow. It appears that someone considers it necessary to aggravate the situation to such a degree that, in a way, the public would put pressure upon Presidency members from individual republics to attend the session.

[Skerjanc] Has the Slovene government, to be precise, the coordination group, taken any countermeasures regarding the JNA's demand for the returning of the armored personnel carriers?

[Jansa] Well, first we have to say, that we are talking about the production of a Slovene company. Regarding this production, we have been negotiating a certain cooperation with the manufacturer for quite some time. In this particular case—after we had witnessed tensions, the fact that the crew of an armored personnel carrier that was manufactured in Maribor ruthlessly murdered a civilian who was a Maribor resident, after we had faced public protests and received demands from the TAM employees, when there were even threats of sabotage and further conflicts—we decided to take preventive measures.

We took those vehicles out of the factory that were intended for internal repression and not for defense purposes. All four armored personnel carriers that we removed from the factory were equipped for intervention against demonstrators. They were equipped with nets for dispersing demonstrators and with equipment for dispensing tear gas. These were not armored personnel carriers intended for the defense of the country.

Second, it is cynical to say that we have stolen these vehicles. The vehicles in question have not been completely paid for, as stated, therefore they were not the property of the JNA, but still the manufacturer's property. We merely held those vehicles back for preventive reasons, but the contract remains valid. Of course, if the JNA chooses to break it, we will compensate for any economic loss that the manufacturer might incur as a result of this.

It is especially cynical to say that we have stolen vehicles from our own company, bearing in mind the fact that last May the JNA, during the elections, if I can say so and on this occasion it truly was so, stole over 2 billion dinars' worth of weapons from the warehouses of the Territorial Defense. The JNA is still on the premises of the Territorial Defense in Prule, in the center of Ljubljana, which belong to the Republic of Slovenia.

[Skerjanc] This afternoon we also broadcast a statement by General Vidmar, in which he stated that he was surprised by your statement, and that lately you have been intensively telling lies about the formation of single-nationality units from Serbia and about special units arriving in Ljubljana. Could you please comment on his statement?

[Jansa] Well, of course, first I would ask General Vidmar to line up the unit that was outside Pekre on Thursday along the Maribor central square so the people can see for themselves what nationality the members of this unit are. Then we will see who is telling the truth and who is lying.

I would also ask him to line up in the middle of Ljubljana the diversionary unit from Zagreb that kidnapped Lieutenant Colonel Milosevic and the people can see for themselves what nationality the members of this sabotage unit are.

Concerning the transfers of soldiers, about which we informed the public yesterday, I would like to say the following: Some have been canceled, probably because the public were informed about them and because journalists were waiting for some of the transfers. Some of these so-called reinforcements came by air.

[Skerjanc] Minister Jansa, thank you very much for this interview.

Court Bans Slovene Conscription Act

LD2905184691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1602 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 29 (TANJUG)—The Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia banned today the implementation of the Slovenian act on conscription until the procedure raised today for the assessment of the constitutionality of this law was over.

The court ruled so on the initiative by the Yugoslav defence minister who denies Slovenia the right to autonomously settle conscription affairs because this is an obligation of the federation settled by federal law, according to the federal constitution.

In another procedure, the court found that fair competition and equality of firms were unconstitutionally impaired by an obligation of introducing deposits to the amount of 50 per cent of the value of the goods traded.

The court also started a procedure to assess the constitutional validity of a provision made by the Yugoslav

Republic of Croatia which recognizes enfranchisment only to its citizens, not to all citizens of age.

The Yugoslav constitution stipulates that the citizen of one republic shall have in the territory of the other republic the same rights and duties as the other republic's citizens.

Corps Commander Denies Jansa's 'Blatant Lies'

AU2905113591 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] General Major Marjan Vidmar, commander of the Command Headquarters of the Ljubljana Corps, this afternoon announced that all members of the Ljubljana Corps were surprised by the statements on Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] activities, which have often been made lately by Republican Defense Minister Janez Jansa.

Vidmar claims that Jansa uttered blatant lies about the alleged formation of single-nationality units from Serbia as well as the arrival of special units in Ljubljana.

He also thought that the statements are a result of incorrect conclusions and incomplete analyses carried out on the basis of the information available to the Secretariat for National Defense.

General Major Marjan Vidmar at the same time stressed that the JNA advocates a reasonable solution to all problems without violence. However, it will act firmly to provide security and normal life and activities for JNA members.

General Vidmar also denied claims about disunity in the JNA.

Slovene Parties on Republic, Military Conflicts

LD3005035791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1726 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pljana, May 29 (TANJUG)—Representatives of four small parties in the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia today criticized the republican authorities for recent clashes between the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and the Slovene Territorial Defence Forces.

"It is impossible to support the JNA's ultimatums," representatives of the Workers' Party, the New Social Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Union and the Slovene Christian Socialist Party told newsmen in Ljubljana today. They said members of the republican authorities "have begun to disseminate fear, intolerance and aggressiveness among people."

Representatives of the left wing said they were surprised that the republican presidency, which is the supreme commander of the Slovene Territorial Defeace, was "silent."

Members of the Territorial Defence arrested two JNA members without authority and without any reason in Maribor last Thursday, military authorities have announced. JNA units subsequently laid a siege to a Territorial Defence training centre in Maribor.

One civilian was killed when Maribor residents tried to form a "human wall" and prevent the movement of military transporoers. As shown in a TV documentary film, he fell under an Army vehicle and was run over.

Poll Supports Tudjman, Democratic Union

LD2905134791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1234 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Zagreb, May 29 (TANJUG)—The results of a poll conducted in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia indicate that about 35.2 percent of all Croatians would like to see republican President Franjo Tudjman as their favourite "on a list of candidates for Croatia's president."

The telephone poll, conducted on May 24 and 25 by the weekly VJESNIK U SRIJEDU (VUS), published in the republican capital Zagreb, covered a sample of 450.

Some 33.8 percent had no clear candidate in mind. Yugoslav state Presidency member from Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, won the support of 15.1 percent, Croatian National Party leader Savka Dabcevic-Kucar won 2.6 percent and Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic 1.9 percent.

The aim of the poll, VUS said, was to see "how the public views the Croatian leadership and some of its activities since the election".

President Tudjman received the highest rating for his work from 57.1 percent of those polled, while 28.7 percent gave the same mark to the republican parliament and 28.2 percent to its government. Only 3.8 percent consider Tudjman's performance "extremely negative".

If new elections were called now for the Croatian parliament and other state organs, 45.6 percent would vote for the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) while all other parties would receive from 0.3 to 3.7 percent of the votes.

Thus the Party of Democratic Changes (SDP), the former Communists, would receive just 3.7 percent of all votes. Some 27.5 percent were still undecided.

The HDZ won 41.4 percent of the votes cast at last year's multiparty elections and holds 68.5 percent of the total number of seats in the republican parliament.

Most of those polled—47 percent—came out for "Croatia's total secession from Yugoslavia", 26 percent opted for Yugoslavia as an "alliance of sovereign states" and 14.9 percent for Yugoslavia as a "federation".

"Improvement of the economic situation," was the priority task chosen by somewhat under 30 percent of those polled. "Restoration of order" ranked second with just over 25 percent, and "Croatia's move towards independence from Yugoslavia" was third with somewhat under 25 percent.

Croatian Statement on Croat Rights Deferred

LD2905204591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1935 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Zagreb, 29 May (TANJUG)—The Croatian Assembly this evening failed to determine the text of a proposed declaration "on the violation of the rights of members of the Croatian nation in the Republic of Serbia and the provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo" even after five hours of debate. The declaration should, in the view of the assembly, express a resolute and firm demand to the Serbian Assembly "that it should observe the ratified international documents in the sphere of human rights, which would put a stop to the violation of the civil and national rights of the Croatian minority in Serbia and the provinces."

This evening's joint session [of all three chambers] was interrupted and will continue on Friday 31 May. By then, it was stated from the platform, the portion of the text which mentions the events in Knin should be dropped since, as it was said, Knin is not in Serbia.

The assembly deputies will gather tomorrow for the formal session on the occasion of Croatian statehood day, and on Friday they will continue their work in joint and separate sessions of the chambers.

Assembly Comments on Respect for Rights in Serbia

LD3005035991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1516 GMT 29 MAy 91

[Text] Zagreb, May 29 (TANJUG)—The human rights committee of the parliament of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia suggested today that deputies should pass a separate declaration on the "violations of the rights of the members of the Croatian people in the Republic of Serbia."

According to the proposal, the Croatian parliament "demands that the assembly of Serbia" should respect the ratified international documents in the domain of human rights "thus terminating the violations of civil and national rights of the Croatian minority in Serbia."

In Serbia, according to the 1981 census, Croats accounted for 150,000 out of the republic's total population of over 8,000,000.

Serbia's parliament has recently accused the Croatian authorities of "terrorism against the Serbian population" in this republic. In Croatia, the 1981 census figures showed 530,000 Serbs in the republic's 4.6-million strong population.

Bosnian Sovereignty Documents Proposed

AU2905140791 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 18 May 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sovereignty in Two Versions"]

[Text] On the basis of the conclusions of the meeting between the presidents of the legislative parties on 13 May 1991 in the Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina, on 14, 15, 16, and 17 May 1991, a group of representatives of the deputies' clubs of the parties represented in the legislature of Bosnia-Hercegovina worked on formulating a proposed text for a political resolution on the foundations of the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the attitude of the legislative parties of Bosnia-Hercegovina to the resolution of the Yugoslav political crisis.

This working group agreed upon two versions that were acceptable to the majority of the representatives of the deputies' clubs of the parties in the legislature and decided to present these two versions on an equal footing to the presidents of the parties represented in the legislature for them to adopt and sign.

The working body decided to request that these versions be endorsed at a session of the party heads on Monday 20 May 1991 in the Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The mutually agreed versions of the political resolution were endorsed by the representatives of the deputies' clubs in the Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly from the following parties: the Party of Democratic Action, the Serbian Democratic Party, the Croatian Democratic Community, the Alliance of Reform Forces, the Muslim Bosnian organization, and the Serbian Renaissance Movement.

At this stage of the agreement, the representatives of the Socialist Democratic Party and the Liberal Party did not agree with the aforementioned versions of the political resolutions. This was said in a statement made by the Information Ministry of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Bosnian Serbs Support Federal Army

AU2905211891 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 20 May 91 p 3

[S. Sabljic report: "The Army Will Defend the Serbs"]

[Text] Titov Drvar, 19 May—Yugoslavia has survived by sacrificing the Serbs who have preserved it by losing both their religion and their identity. We have renounced everything that is sacred to us for the interests of this Yugoslavia, thus coming to the assistance of our enemies. This and a similar Yugoslavia now has a chance to survive only on the condition that Stipe Mesic is not elected president. This was said by Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian Democratic Party for Bosnia-Hercegovina, at a public discussion forum in Titov Drvar. Dr. Nikola Koljevic, member of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, also took part in the work of this forum, which was attended by about 1,000 inhabitants of this and neighboring Krajina communes.

Even though the subject of the discussion forum was "Drvar in Krajina, Bosnia-Hercegovina in Yugoslavia," the current political and economic situation in the country was also discussed in Titov Drvar, as well as the

latest events, which have not inconsiderably alarmed the inhabitants of the Titov Drvar commune.

Asked what he thought about cooperation between the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina and the Community of Communes of the Bosnian Krajina, Dr. Radovan Karadzic stressed that this cooperation, that is to say, the joint organization of these two regions is not possible while Yugoslavia exists. Regarding the behavior of General Kadijevic, the president of the Serbian Democratic Party for Bosnia-Hercegovina said:

"Veljko Kadijevic's behavior is very correct, from the point of view of both a professional soldier and a real Yugoslav. I am deeply convinced of this."

Otherwise, those present in the auditorium of the Workers' Hall, which was full to overflowing, most often asked questions about the stand of the Yugoslav People's Army regarding the latest events in Yugoslavia. In this respect, Koljevic said among other things:

"I am convinced that the Yugoslav People's Army will not allow the Serbian people to be attacked with arms."

Regarding the regionalization of the Krajina, Dr. Koljevic stressed in answer to numerous questions:

"The Serbian people in the Bosnian Krajina have suffered injustice for years. They have been exploited and then even resettled elsewhere. They will no longer suffer this injustice, and this was the main motive or immediate reason for the regionalization of the Krajina communes.

Responding to a question connected with the supposed settlement of ethnic Bosnians from Turkey in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Dr. Radovan Karadzic said: "This settlement is not possible, but if it comes about the Serbian people will prevent it.

Speaking about Vojislav Seselj and his meeting with a representative of the Serbian Democratic Party for Bosnia-Hercegovina, Dr. Radovan Karadzic said that "the gentlemen in Sarajevo will not determine for us where we will meet and with whom."

This afternoon, Dr. Nikola Koljevic and Dr. Radovan Karadzic also attended a holy bishops' liturgy on the occasion of the local parish's day and the patron saint's day of the Saint Sava church in Titov Drvar, which was given by the Timok Bishop Mitrofan. On this occasion, Dr. Koljevic addressed a crowd of several thousand people.

Deputies Protest Arming Serbs, Montenegrins

LD3005054291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1310 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pristina, 29 May (TANJUG)—A group of delegates who are Albanian nationals in the Federal Chamber of the Yugoslav Assembly from Kosovo and Metohija tabled a demand to the president of the chamber that the problem of the arming of Serbs and Montenegrins in Kosovo should be discussed.

The written explanation of their demand, forwarded to the TANJUG editorial offices in Pristina today above the signatures of 13 delegates, claims that "weapons have been distributed quite openly to Serbs and Montenegrins" during the past 10 days or so in several Kosovo municipalities. This represents, they say, "an incomprehensible step in the direction of further exacerbation of the political situation, which could lead to interethnic conflicts with much wider consequences." The weapons, claims this group of delegates, are distributed in full view of citizens in municipal centers or in the villages inhabitated by the Serbs and Montenegrins. They are brought in assorted private and socially-owned passenger or transport vehicles. "All this gives rise to a great deal of concern among all citizens, especially Albanian, Muslim, Turkish, Croatian, and other nationals," says the explanation.

Talks Between Slovene, Macedonian Delegations

LD2905194491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1735 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Ljubljana, May 29 (TANJUG)—Slovenia continues to strive for Yugoslavia as a union of sovereign states "which means that Slovenia should become a sovereign state first," Slovene prime minister Lojze Peterle told a news conference in Ljubljana today, following the talks between the Slovene and Macedonian delegations.

Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Kljusev said Macedonia still believed in the possibility of a political agreement for the creation of a union of sovereign states.

Kljusev reiterated Macedonia's stand calling for a certain form of common market, common defence and common foreign affairs.

Asked what Macedonia will do when Slovenia becomes independent in a month, Kljusev said "de-unifying" was seen in Macedonia as a way to "square up the accounts."

Slovenia's residents voted late last December for an "independent and sovereign" state of Slovenia.